Rashtra Deepika Vol. 9 No. 8 August 2005

CHILDREN'S DIGEST

Tales Behind Sayings

Shape and Size of the Earth

- How the Wise Men of the Past Determined Them

Page 89

BE TRUE TO ONE'S NATURE

Page 36

Plus Towards Better English • A Leaf out of Literature • Fun Time • Quiz Time, etc.

Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds are truly some of the most amazing creatures on the planet. Individually, they are the smallest of all birds, and yet, with over 325 species, they are the second largest family of birds in the world.

According to research, hummingbirds eat up to 14 times their own body weight in nectar every day. In order to accomplish this amazing feat, hummingbirds' bills and tongues have evolved into incredibly efficient feeding tools.

Despite popular belief, hummingbirds do not feed by sucking up nectar with their bills; instead, they lap it up with their tongues. They feed by dipping their forked, open-grooved tongues into nectar at up to 12 times a second. These grooves create a capillary action which draws the nectar up the tongue and into the mouth with every lapping action.

To reach the nectar at the base of long flower tubes, hummingbirds extend their tongues past their bill about a distance equal to the length of the bill.

The bee hummingbird is the world's smallest bird - including its long bill, it measures just 5 cm.

RASHTRA DEEPIKA
CHILDREN'S DIGEST
VOL.9 NO.8 AUGUST 2005
Publishers: Rashtra Deepika Ltd. (Estd. in 1887)

Inside

Feature

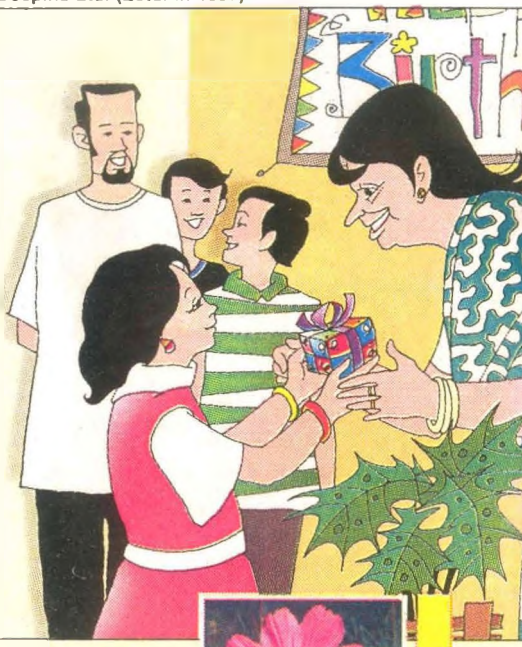
Clothing the English Language

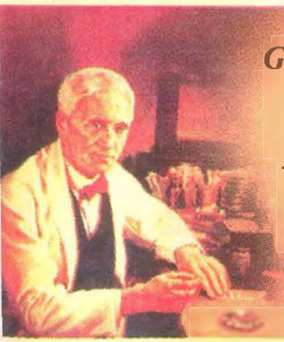
Page 10

Story

A Birthday Gift for Mummy

Page 76





Gallery of Scientists

Alexander Fleming

Bacteriologist Who Discovered Penicillin

Page 60

Thought for the Month

Forget past mistakes. Forget failures. Forget everything except what you're going to do now and do it.

-William Durant

Managing Director: Jose Thomas Pattara **Executive Editor**: Fr. Roy Kannanchira CMI **Editor-in-Charge**: Jojo Valliyil **Editorial Consultant**: T. M. Vallikappen

Advisory Board: P. D. Tandon (Allahabad), Vernon Thomas (Kolkata), Dr. Mathew Chandrankunnel (Bangalore), Dr. Ahana Lakshmi (Chennai), P. Gopalakrishnan (Kottayam), Prof. Rose Catherine (Nagercoil).

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES:

Kerala: ■ Cochin: Ph: 2336570 ■ Kottayam: Ph: 2566706 ■ Trichur: Ph: 2421596 ■ Kannur: Ph: 2746850 ■ Trivandrum: Ph: 2475175 ■ Calicut: Ph: 2762190 **Delhi:** R.K.Verma, P.S.Narang Ph: 23715947, **Mumbai**: D. Mukundan Ph: 22630367, **Bangalore**: Jaijo Joseph Ph: 23378382 Jose Vengathadom Mob: 9448003048, **Chennai**: G. Vidya Sagar Mob: 9444016417, **Mangalore**: Jinu Joseph Ph: 2412953, **Coimbatore**: Suresh Kumar Ph: 2320150, **Ahmedabad**: Gayatri Mehta Ph: 26873520, **Hyderabad**: Thomas Samuel Ph: 23405445, **Pune**: Narendra P. Shinde Ph: 9823046522

ABROAD

Dubai: George Joseph Ph: 009714-518292

Single Copy Rs. 15/- only.

Annual Subscription: **India**: Rs. 150/- **Overseas**: US $ 25 **Subscription Enquiries**: Circulation Manager, Rashtra Deepika Children's Digest, P. B. No. 7, Kottayam-686 001, Kerala, India. **Phone**: PBX. **Editorial**: 0481-2566706, 2566707. **Office**: 2566708, 2566709. **Fax**: 0481-2567947. **E-mail**: cdigest@deepika.com

Edited, Printed and Published by Jose Thomas Pattara on behalf of Rashtra Deepika Ltd., College Road, Kottayam-686 001, and printed at St. Francis Sales Press, College Road, Kottayam-686 001. Managing Director: Jose Thomas Pattara.

Catchy Quotes

- I play chess to win, but more importantly, because I love the game.

- Viswanathan Anand

- People become really quite remarkable when they start thinking that they can do things. When they believe in themselves they have the first secret of success.

- Norman Vincent Peale

- If you love what you do, you will never work another day in your life.

- Confucius

- We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

- Max DePree

- No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.

- Charles Dickens

- I'm not telling you it is going to be easy - I'm telling you it's going to be worth it.

- Art Williams

- Have a good day, count your blessings, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

- Rachel Gordon

- The training of children is a profession, where we must know how to lose time in order to gain it.

- Jean Jacques Rousseau

- Strength of mind is exercise, not rest.

- Alexander Pope

- The tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended.

- Alan Stewart Paton

Water

- Our body is mainly made of water.
- We can survive weeks without food, but no more than few days without water.
- We gain water by drinking and eating, and as a by-product of cell activity.
- We lose water by sweating and breathing, and in our urine and faeces.
- The water balance in the body is controlled by the kidneys.
- The amount of water the kidneys let out as urine depends on the amount of salt there is in the blood.
- If we drink a lot, the saltiness of the blood is diluted. To restore the balance, the kidneys let out a lot of water in the form of urine.
- If we drink little or sweat a lot, the blood becomes salty, so the kidneys restore the balance by holding on to more water.

Stories for Little Angels

- Anonymous

The Cake

A little boy was telling his Grandma how "everything" was going wrong...school, family, friends, health, etc. Meanwhile, Grandma was baking a cake. She asked the child if he would like a snack, which of course he does.

"Here. Have some cooking oil."

"Yuck," says the boy.

"How about a couple of raw eggs?"

"Gross, Grandma."

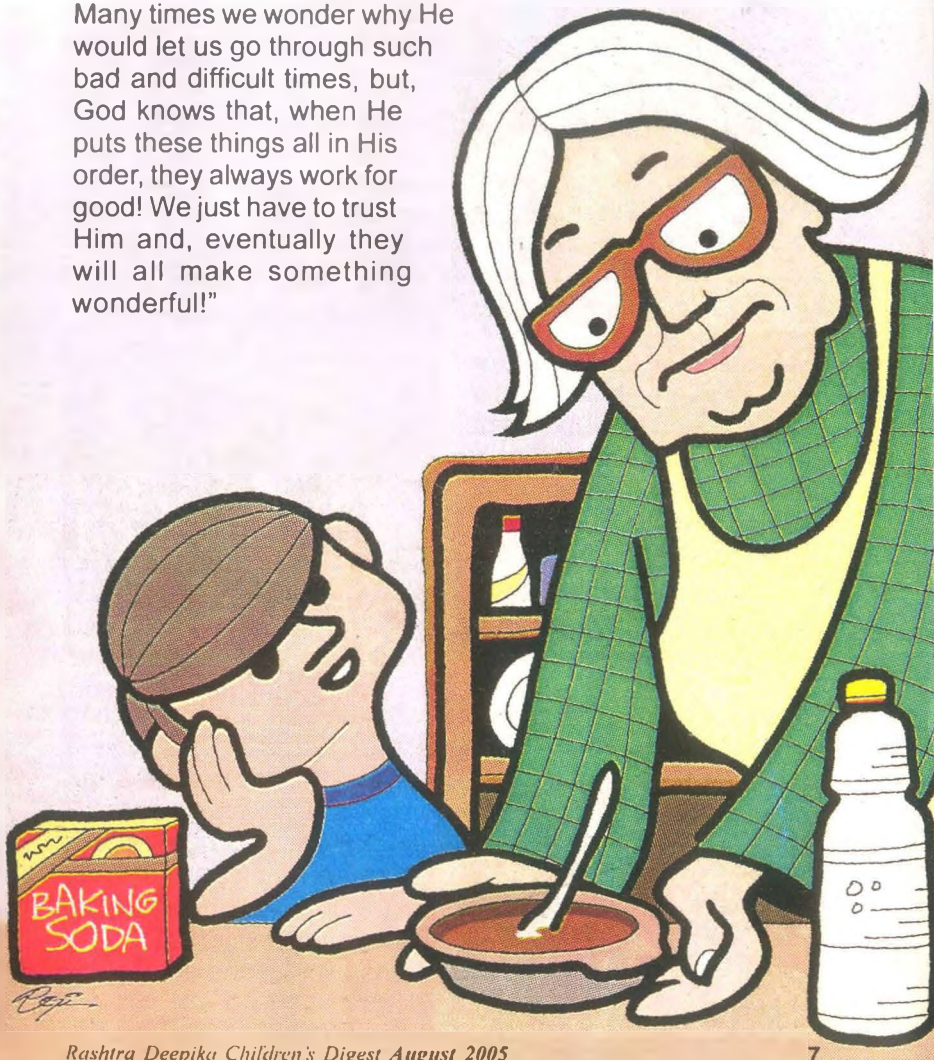
"Would you like some flour then? Or maybe baking soda?"

"Grandma, those are all yucky!"

To which Grandma replies:

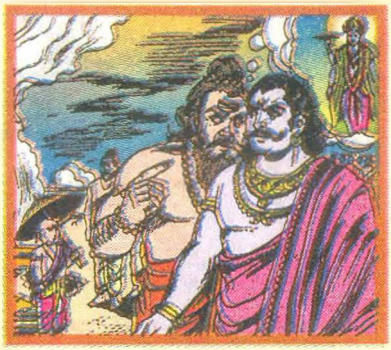
"Yes, all those things seem bad by themselves. But when they are put together in the right way, they make a wonderfully delicious cake!"

" God works the same way. Many times we wonder why He would let us go through such bad and difficult times, but, God knows that, when He puts these things all in His order, they always work for good! We just have to trust Him and, eventually they will all make something wonderful!"

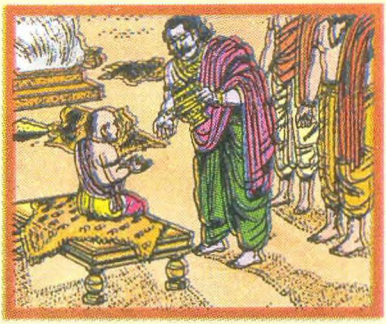


STORY OF INDIA

THE MIGHTY AND THE DWARF - II

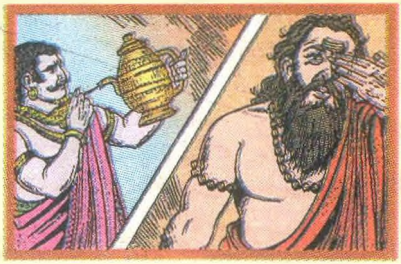


Mahabali's guru, Shukracharya saw through the dwarf's guise and understood his real identity. He pulled Mahabali aside and told him, "That fellow is none other than Lord Vishnu, out to destroy you. By no means should you grant his wish!" But Mahabali said, "I cannot back out of my promise."

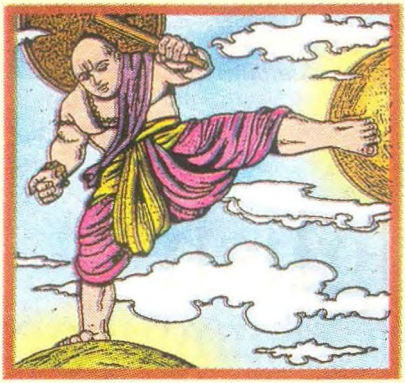


Mahabali got ready to pour sacred water on to Vamana's palms in ceremonial fulfilment of his promise. In desperation, Shukracharya decided to block the flow of water to stop him. Taking the form of a fly, he entered the spout of the water-jug and blocked the opening.

Mahabali realised that there was something inside obstructing the flow of water. Vamana suggested, "Why don't you poke a blade of grass into the spout to clear the obstruction?" Mahabali did so. The grass pierced the fly's eye, forcing it to come out. Shukracharya resumed his form, but he was blind in one eye.

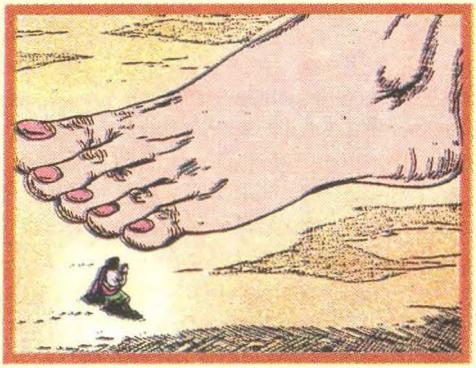


© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved



As Mahabali poured the water into Vamana's hands, Vamana stated his wish – he wanted as much land as he could cover in three strides. Mahabali readily agreed. Suddenly, the dwarf began growing, assuming an enormous size. He took the first step which covered the earth; his second step covered heaven.

"Where shall I place my foot for the third step?" Vamana asked Mahabali. Without hesitation, Mahabali bowed his head. Vamana placed his foot on his head and pressed him down to the nether-world.



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

Seeing the tragedy that had befallen her husband, Mahabali's queen prayed to Vamana to be merciful to him. Vamana promised her that Mahabali would be rewarded for his virtue and truthfulness, by being crowned the king of heaven in a future age.

- *Santhini Govindan, Mumbai*

Clothing the English Language

Man has always used clothes as a way of expressing himself. The colour, style, and shape of our clothes tell the world a lot about us. It is not surprising, therefore, that expressions using various items of clothing have become an integral part of the English language. Though we use many of these idioms connected to clothes in our daily conversation, we rarely think about how these interesting expressions evolved.

Have you heard anyone say that something can be done 'at the drop of a hat'? This means that it can be done instantly or immediately, and this phrase originates from sports events held in England during the 1800's. The traditional way of starting a race in those days was not the sound of the starter's gun, but the drop of a hat! In the American West, the signal for a fight was also often just the drop of a hat! If you were asked to 'keep something under your hat,' it means that you have to keep it secret. During the times when hats were an indispensable and vital item of clothing for

Did You Know?

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand; "lollipop" with your right.

gentlemen, their wearers sometimes put important documents and money under them, so that they would be safely hidden from sight.

If you are told that 'you are talking through your hat,' it is an uncomplimentary remark, for it means that you are talking nonsense! An explanation for the origin of this common phrase is that sometime during the middle ages, gentlemen in church would remove their hats and hold them over their faces when feigning prayers, thus literally speaking through their hats. If, however, you promise to 'eat your hat', it means that you will do something disagreeable and unpleasant if an unlikely event comes to pass. Surprisingly, a 'hatte' was a kind of early meatball popular in Great Britain, made from veal, dates, saffron and other spices, and bound together with eggs. It is believed that this is perhaps, the 'hatte' that was being referred to when someone was asked to eat his hat!

If your teacher has ever urged you to 'put your thinking cap on', it means that you should take time to think over carefully. This phrase originated in the 17th century when judges and other scholars wore tight fitting square caps. Since a judge always wore his cap before delivering his judgment, the cap that he wore when he considered the matter came to be referred to as a thinking cap!

When you are told that you have earned 'a feather in your cap' it means that you have achieved something noteworthy. It was once a common practice to award a feather to a brave soldier who had killed an enemy.

Did You Know?

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

Did You Know?

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

Did You Know?

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

These feathers were worn on the helmet, or other headgear, and were considered symbols of social status and valour. They were worn with the same pride that modern soldiers wear their medals. When American Indians performed bravely in battle, they would receive a feather to add to their headdress. The more feathers a Red Indian had on his headdress, the greater the warrior he was!

The expression 'keep your shirt on', is a way of saying 'don't get excited - restrain yourself.' This idiom originated in the 19th century when gentlemen in Great Britain wore very stiff, starched shirts. Since these elaborate garments took a long time to make, and were expensive too, people usually took off their precious shirts to prevent damage to them before getting into a fight! During a quarrel or fistfight, if one person told another to keep his shirt on, it was the equivalent of telling him that he didn't want to fight.

Did You Know?

There are two words in the English language that have all five vowels in order: "abstemious" and "facetious."

Did You Know?

The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screeched."

A person who 'wears his heart on his sleeve', is one who shows his affections openly in public. This charming expression started from Great Britain in the Middle Ages. During this time, knights wielding lances or long spears would engage in combat on horseback, in the monarch's court. During these jousting matches, a knight would sometimes dedicate his performance to

a lady in the court, and he would tie her handkerchief, or a cloth emblazoned with her colours on his sleeve for all to see. This was his way of announcing to the world that he cared deeply for a lady!

An action or a speech that is not premeditated or is done on the spur of the moment is often referred to as being 'off the cuff'. Interestingly, this idiom came about because shirts in their early days had separate, detachable collars and cuffs. Speakers would sometimes jot down on their cuffs, sudden ideas that occurred to them! Similarly, when early Hollywood directors were shooting scenes for their movies, they used their cuffs to jot down observations and notes that they could convey to the actors when the scene was shot again.

A 'turncoat' is a person who has no loyalties and who changes sides as it suits him. This phrase was inspired by a real-life Duke of Saxony, who very literally, turned his coat inside out very often. This nobleman's properties were situated right on the borders of France and Great Britain, and he had a reversible, specially tailored coat that sported the colours of both Great Britain and France. This meant that the quick thinking Duke could switch the colours of his coat and allegiance as it suited him!

When we speak of a person who 'lines his pockets', we mean that the person is one who makes a

Did You Know?

Shakespeare invented the word 'assassination' and 'bump.'

Did You Know?

There are only four words in the English language which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

Did You Know?

The word skeleton comes from the Ancient Greek word for 'dry'.

lot of money in a doubtful way. This amusing idiom also originated from 18th century Great Britain, when the King's court was full of dandies or gentlemen greatly interested in style and fashion. George Brummell was one of the most famous of these, and the court tailor was once so anxious to have him as a customer that he sent him a dress coat as a gift. It was no ordinary coat however, for its pockets were lined with bank notes!

Have you heard anyone say that it is unfair to 'hit below the belt?' This means that it is wrong to indulge in underhand tactics that are

Amazing Language Facts

- There are more than 2,700 languages in the world. In addition, there are more than 7,000 dialects. A dialect is a regional variety of a language that has a different pronunciation, vocabulary, or meaning.
- The most difficult language to learn is Basque, which is spoken in northwestern Spain and southwestern France. It is not related to any other language in the world. It has an extremely complicated word structure and vocabulary.
- All pilots on international flights identify themselves in English.
- Somalia is the only African country in which the entire population speaks the same language, Somali.
- The language in which a government conducts business is the official language of that country.
- More than 1,000 different languages are spoken on the continent of Africa.
- Many languages in Africa include a "click" sound that is pronounced at the same time as other sounds. You must learn these languages in childhood to do it properly.

Did You Know?

"I am." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

against the rules. This phrase came about after the Marquis of Queensbury (1844-1900) drew up the rules for the sport of Boxing in 1867, where hitting an opponent below his belt was clearly disallowed.

Anything that 'knocks your socks off' is something that really surprises and delights you. This phrase is believed to have originated from early 20th century cartoons that depicted startled characters leaping out of their shoes and socks. Speaking of shoes, do you know that if you 'are on a shoestring budget,' it means that you have very little money or resources? A shoestring was the early word for a shoelace, and it was one of the cheapest and most common objects that money could buy.

When you are very well dressed, it's usual to say that you are 'dressed to the nines'. This idiom originated from the British Royal Navy that has a dress code divided into nine levels. Number One is the lowest level, and it consists of the dirty dungarees used for rough cleaning jobs. Number Nine, however is the highest level and it consists of formal wear for ceremonial and grand occasions.

How did the "**hot dog**" get its name?

The term "hot dog" is credited to sports cartoonist Tad Dorgan. At a 1901 baseball game at the Polo Grounds in New York, vendors began selling hot dachsund sausages in rolls.

From the press box, Dorgan could hear the vendors yelling, "Get your dachshund sausages while they're red hot!" He sketched a cartoon depicting the scene but wasn't sure how to spell "dachshund" so he called them simply, "hot dogs." And the rest is history.

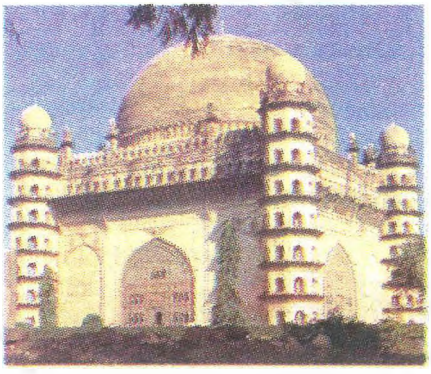
GOL GUMBAZ

Gol Gumbaz in Bijapur, Karnataka, is one of the most impressive monuments in southern India. It is actually a tomb built by Muhammad Adil Shah, the 7th ruler of the Shahi dynasty for himself! It was built in 1656.

The Gol Gumbaz, or 'the round dome', is an excellent example of Islamic architecture in India. The building looks like a great cube, surmounted by a huge hemispherical dome. There are octagonal seven storeyed towers at each corner of the building. Each tower is crowned by a smaller dome. A wonderful view of the city can be had from these towers.

Gol Gumbaz has the largest dome in India. It is the second largest dome in the world. Another significant feature of the structure is that no pillars support it. There is only one square chamber inside. The chamber is very huge and is 41m on each side and 33.5m high. The walls are 3m thick. The diameter of the dome is 38m and the apex of the dome is over 61m in height. The monument has a floor area of 5588m.

Under the dome on a raised platform are the tombs of the ruler, his three wives, daughter, and grandson.



The unique feature of this structure is the whispering gallery. The acoustic system is such that even a small whisper is echoed 11 times. The echoes of a single person's step would sound like those of an army. The tick of a watch or the rustle of papers can be heard across a distance of 37 m.

TEACHER AND STUDENT
MA, MAY I GO OUT TO PLAY?
NO NO. WE WILL PLAY HERE TOGETHER.
EH? WHAT GAME?
WE WILL PLAY TEACHER AND STUDENT.
ALL RIGHT. BUT...
BUT WHAT?
TODAY I AM ABSENT.
?!
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

The Friend who Remembered - 1

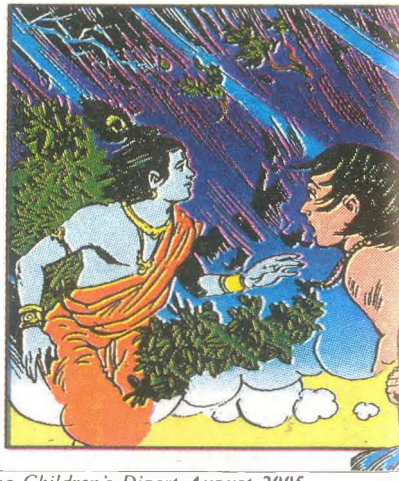
Sudama sat on the doorstep of his tiny hut, lost in thought. A variety of expressions chased themselves across his gaunt face, as he lost himself in scenes from the past.

He was recollecting his days at Sage Sandipani's *gurukul* (hermitage school), where he had once been a student. How far away those idyllic days seemed now – a far cry from his present penury-stricken existence, buffeted about by the mundane cares of life!

Sudama's father had been a poor scholar, whose greatest dream for his son was that he be well educated. Wealth and luxury had never featured on his agenda, and it was the pursuit of the dream of knowledge that had brought Sudama to Sandipani's *gurukul*.

It was at the *gurukul* that Sudama had met Krishna and Balarama, sons of a wealthy chieftain. They were his fellow-students. Krishna and Sudama quickly hit it off, much to the surprise of all those who knew them. Thinking back about it, Sudama himself was no less surprised. What did he – a shy, introverted and poor boy, have in common with the gregarious, intelligent and wealthy Krishna, who seemed to represent the personification of all virtues? But they had become fast friends.

One day, Sage Sandipani's wife had told Krishna and Sudama, "Boys, I've run out of firewood. It looks as if it's going to rain, and if it does, it will be impossible to get dry

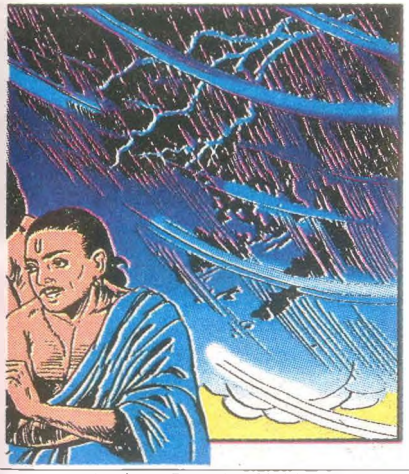


© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

wood. So, will you go to the forest right away and get me some firewood?"

"Yes, Mother!" said Krishna, who had always been the leader in all their exploits. Together, the two boys had walked out into the nearby wood. Absorbed in their task of collecting fallen boughs, they had not noticed the skies darkening ominously, and by the time they did, it was too late.

A light drizzle started, and a cold wind rose to whip the boys' hair and clothes. The evening sun quickly vanished behind black clouds and before they knew it, it was quite dark. As the drizzle intensified, Krishna led Sudama to stand below a large tree.



A streak of lightning snaked its way across the sky. Sudama gave a little shudder as his eyes followed its passage. Involuntarily, he moved closer to his friend in the shelter of the tree. The next moment, there was pitch darkness again. Sudama felt Krishna put his arm around his shoulders. Coming as it did at that scary moment in the lonely forest, the gesture was immensely comforting.

BOOM! Sudama jumped out of his skin at the deafening thunderclap that seemed to rent the very heavens apart in its ferocity. But as he felt Krishna's arm on his shoulder, all his fear melted away.

The rain now began lashing down in torrents. Shivering with cold, the two boys huddled together in the inadequate protection of the tree. They did not dare put down the bundles of firewood they had gathered, lest they got wet.

Hours passed. The dreadful storm finally ceased. The noisy

© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

winds died down and the clouds began dispersing, letting the rosy fingers of dawn peep out through their wisps. The noise of the hurricane gave way to an eerie silence.

Soon, the silence was broken by footfalls in the undergrowth, followed by an anxious call – "Krishna, Sudama! Where are you?"

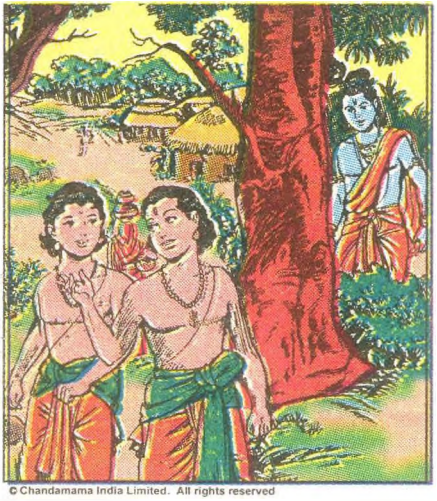
The boys recognised the voice. It was the sage himself. Together they called back, "We're here, Gurudev!"

Moments later, a small band of people emerged. At the head was the anxious-faced Sandipani, holding a lantern.

"What did you do all night, boys?" he asked, putting his arms around them.

"We were standing under this tree, Gurudev!" answered Krishna. "We did not put the bundles of firewood down, lest they got wet and became unfit for use. See, they're still dry!"

Sage Sandipani swallowed. Even in the semi-darkness, it was clear to the boys that he was battling his emotions. Finally he cleared his throat and spoke in a choked voice, "I bless you, my sons! May the wealth of knowledge and learning be ever yours!"



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

Later, after they were back in the cosy warmth of the ashram, a fellow-student had asked Sudama, "What a hellish experience it must have been – to spend a whole night out in the forest, in that terrible storm! Weren't you scared out of your wits?"

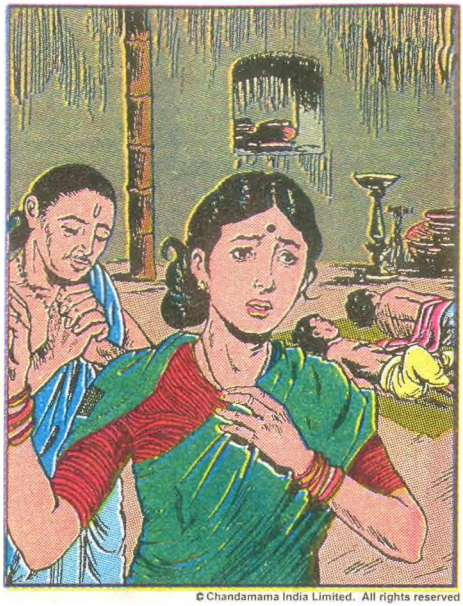
"No," replied Sudama calmly. "With Krishna beside me, I did not feel any fear at all!" Just as he

had finished, he had caught Krishna's eye as the latter entered the room. Evidently, he had overheard the words, for, he had smiled at Sudama – a smile so sweet and loving that it still lingered vividly in Sudama's memory!

The raucous croaking of a crow suddenly jerked Sudama back to the present. He shook his head as if to clear it.

Where was Krishna, and where was he today? They had parted ways after their studies. Today, Krishna was a king and married to Rukmini, the goddess of Prosperity. He was leading a life of opulence in faraway Dwaraka.

And what of Sudama? He had married a poor girl, Susheela, and embarked on a lifestyle similar to his father's – austere, uncaring of worldly pleasures, devoted to prayer and study of the scriptures. Susheela was a good-natured, docile woman who did her best to keep him happy.



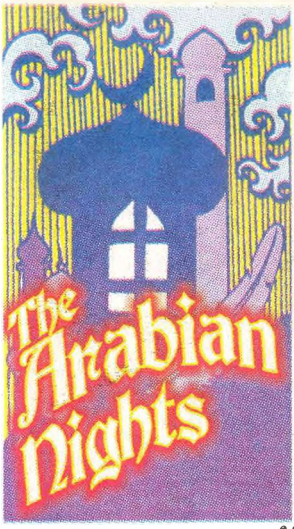
© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

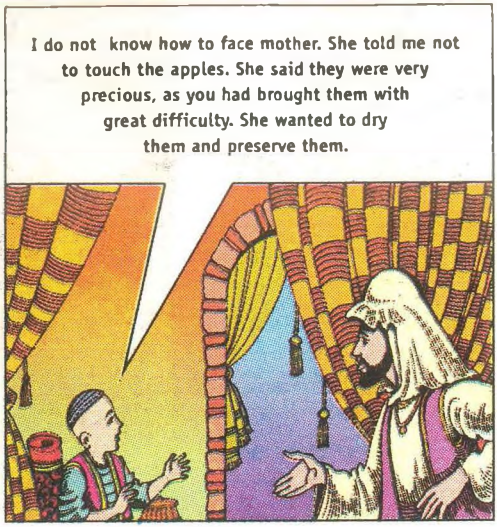
As time passed, children were born to the couple. It was now that poverty began to pinch. Susheela was ready to endure any amount of personal hardship for the sake of her husband. But as a mother, she could not bear the sight of her children crying themselves to sleep on an empty stomach, night after night, and shivering with cold for want of a blanket.

One night, she timidly approached her husband.

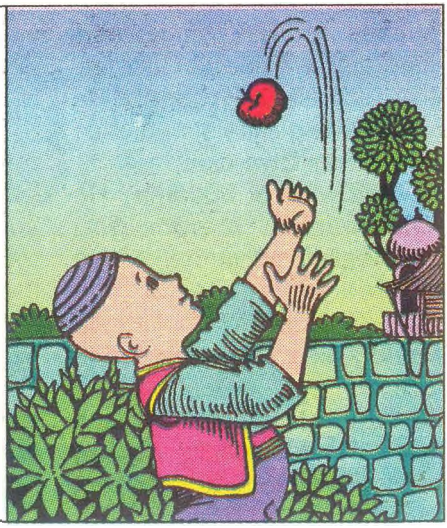
-Retold by ***Rajee Raman***

(To continue)

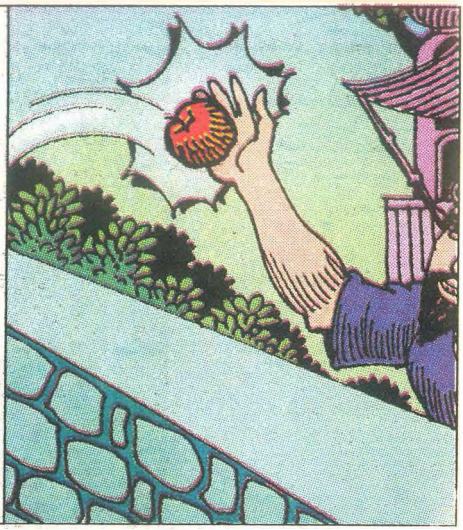



I do not know how to face mother. She told me not to touch the apples. She said they were very precious, as you had brought them with great difficulty. She wanted to dry them and preserve them.

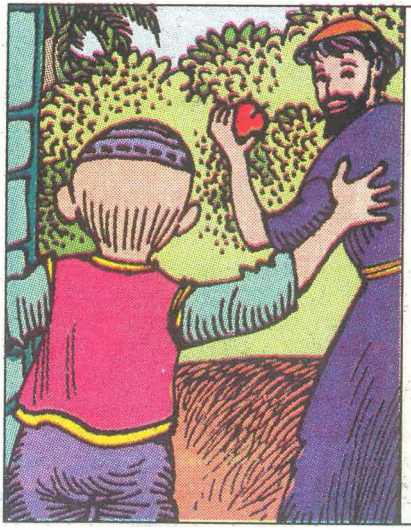
© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved



As I was throwing and catching it, someone standing outside our garden caught it.



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

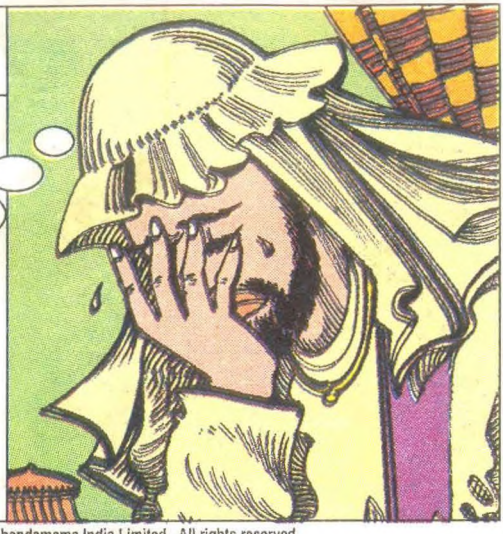


I told him to give it back, saying that my father had bought it for my mother. But he ran away with it.

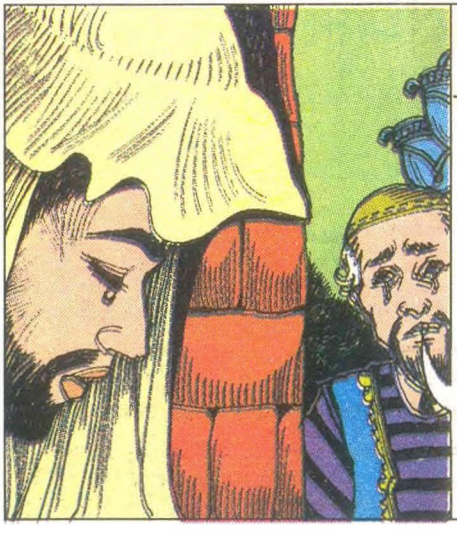
THE ARABIAN NIGHTS — THE COSTLY APPLE - 19

Iqbal realised the blunder he had done.

O my God!
I've acted in haste.
Amina did not give away
the apple, after all!
What shall I do now?



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved



He at once went to his father-in-law and told him about the incident.

If the Caliph comes to
know of this, you'll
be in for trouble!
Let's get rid of
the body.

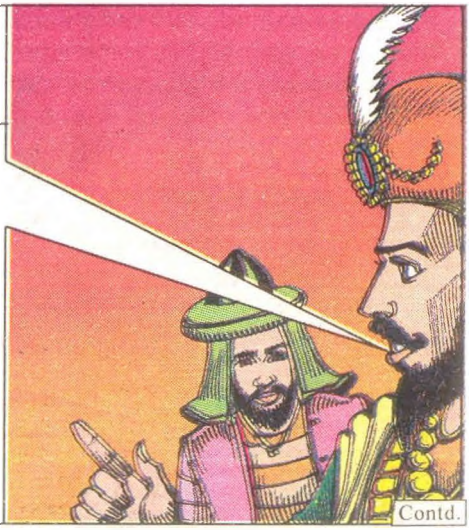
Both of them then took the casket and floated it in the river.

May her soul rest in peace!

© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

The Caliph listened to Iqbal's story with rapt attention. He then turned to the Wazir.

Wazir,
I want the ruffian caught at any cost within three days.
Or else you will be hanged.



Contd.

-P.G

The Joy of Ice-cream

Neuroscientists at the Institute of Psychiatry, London, say that ice cream really makes you happy. They have found that a spoonful of it lights up the pleasure centre of the brain, like winning money or listening to your favourite music.

Man-like Robot on Commercial Sale

A Japanese company has produced the first humanoid robot. It is named 'Nuvo' and is 38 cm tall, 2.5 kg in weight and costs around 5000 dollars. Like a man it can walk around the house, respond to voice commands and sing. When the family is away the digicam placed in its left eye is wide open for the owner to monitor home. They are also designed for hospital use to help in surgery. This April a complicated liver surgery was performed on a patient at the Medical Centre of the Maryland University in USA, using a laparoscope and a pair of robotic arms. Indeed the days of surgery using robots may not be far away.

Did You Know?

There are more chickens than people in the world.

Hydrogen Sulphide and Hibernation

Those who study even in

the lower standards know that Hydrogen Sulphide is a poisonous gas with a distinctive smell of rotten eggs. A study published in the journal 'Science' says that the gas can be used to induce hibernation and estivation. Hibernation is a sleep-like state which animals in countries with extremely cold winters go into during the cold season. During this period they cut down all activities, including breathing, to the bare minimum to maintain life. Estivation is a similar state adopted by animals to survive the severe heat of hot deserts. The experiments were conducted at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Centre of Seattle, Washington, on laboratory mice. The finding that hibernation-like state can be induced has medical importance. It can be used for organ transplantation, for reducing physiological damage resulting from trauma, and for improving the outcome of some forms of surgery. But the safe dose for humans is yet to be ascertained.

Did You Know?

In the last 4000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

Use of Mobile Phones to Detect Depression

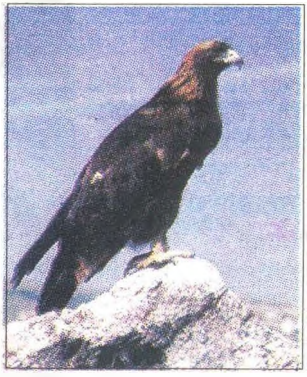
Researchers in Australia are planning to use teenagers' love of mobile phones to help monitor their depression and pick up warning signs of their probable suicidal behaviour.

" We need a youth-friendly, savvy way to get teenagers involved," says psychiatrist Sophie Reid from Melbourne's Murdoch Children's Research Institute. "One thing they are sure enthusiastic about is their mobile phones."

Quiz of the Month

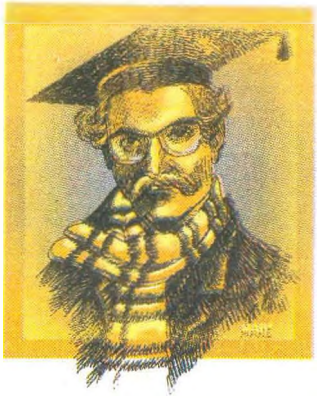
- Prof. N.J.G.

1. What is the title of the biography of Pope John Paul II, written by Garry O'Connor?
2. What is Israel's National Anthem?
3. What is the common name of "Choriotis Nigriceps" the endangered Indian bird?
4. Which country's monetary system is 1 Dram = 100 loumas.
5. Name the scientist who was awarded the Nobel prize in 1948 for establishing the toxic effect of DDT, (now banned in many countries) on insects.
6. What is the name given to a word or phrase that spells the same forwards as it does backwards, just as 'madam'?
7. Which commonly used office stationery was invented by Johan Waaler.
8. Name the country that fought against Carthage in the Punic Wars in the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC.
9. At the time of Indian independence, who was the ruler of Kashmir?
10. Which country is called 'suomi' by its inhabitants?
11. Who is the chief god in Egyptian mythology?
12. Which domesticated animal's male and female are called billy and nanny?
13. Identify the National Bird of Canada given in the picture.



(See page 97)

Goodbye, Mr. Chips



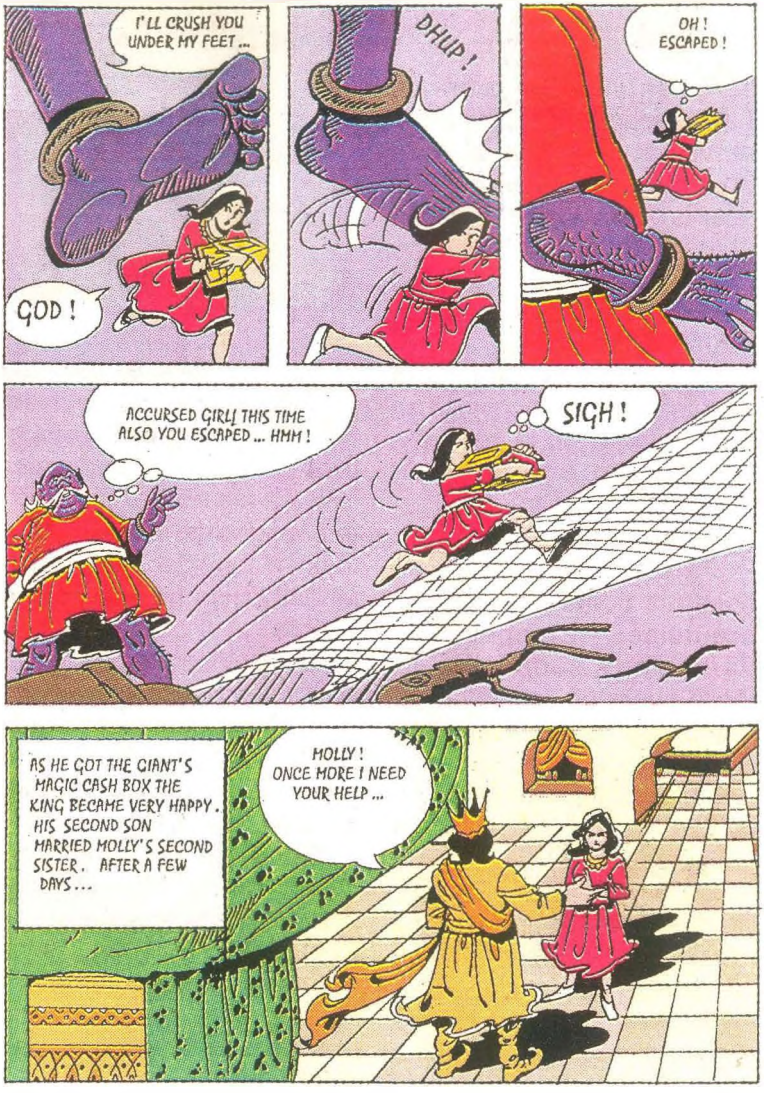
Twenty-eight-year-old Latin teacher, Mr. Chipping, arrives at Brookfield School, on a term's probation. The year is 1880.While he fails to get off to a good start with the rowdy and ill-disciplined pupils, he eventually wins them over with his sharp, funny manner and his genuine gift for teaching. The headmaster, Mr. Wetherby, retains him and he soon becomes part of the fabric of the school.

A passionate teacher who does not tolerate bullying or prejudice, Chipping is particularly supportive of those pupils on scholarships, knows each boy by name and is, in turn, respected by them. Yet, he is frustrated when he is not given the post of housemaster.

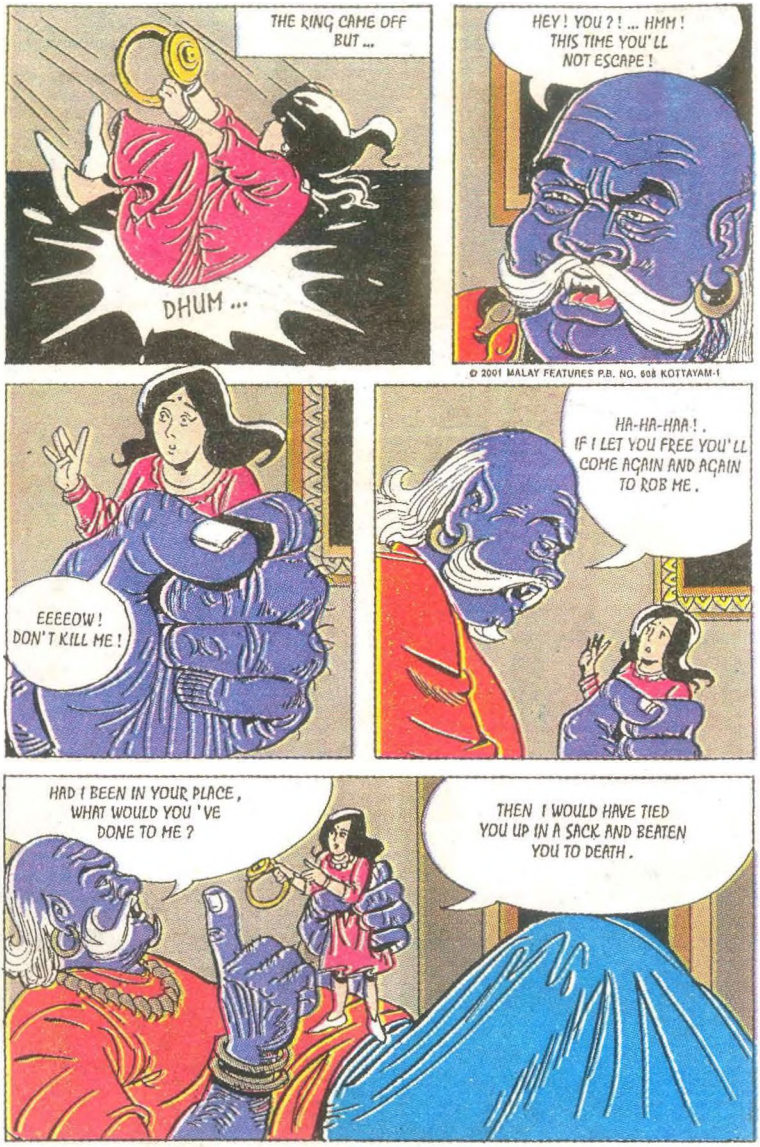
On a vacation, Chipping's life is turned upside down by his encounter with beautiful, 17-year-old Kathie. They fall in love and marry, and Kathie sweeps through Brookfield like a breath of fresh air. She sets out to eliminate Brookfield's tradition of bullying, befriends the boys – regularly inviting them to tea – and even initiates a social evening with the local girls' school. They make a formidable team and Mr. Chipping – now nicknamed 'Chips' – is made housemaster of the prestigious Wellington House. However, a devastating personal tragedy is to follow only a year later, as Kathie dies in childbirth. But life goes on for Mr. Chips.

Goodbye, Mr. Chips, by James Hilton, internationally popular ever since its first publication in 1934, is an intensely moving, timeless classic that students and teachers everywhere can identify with.

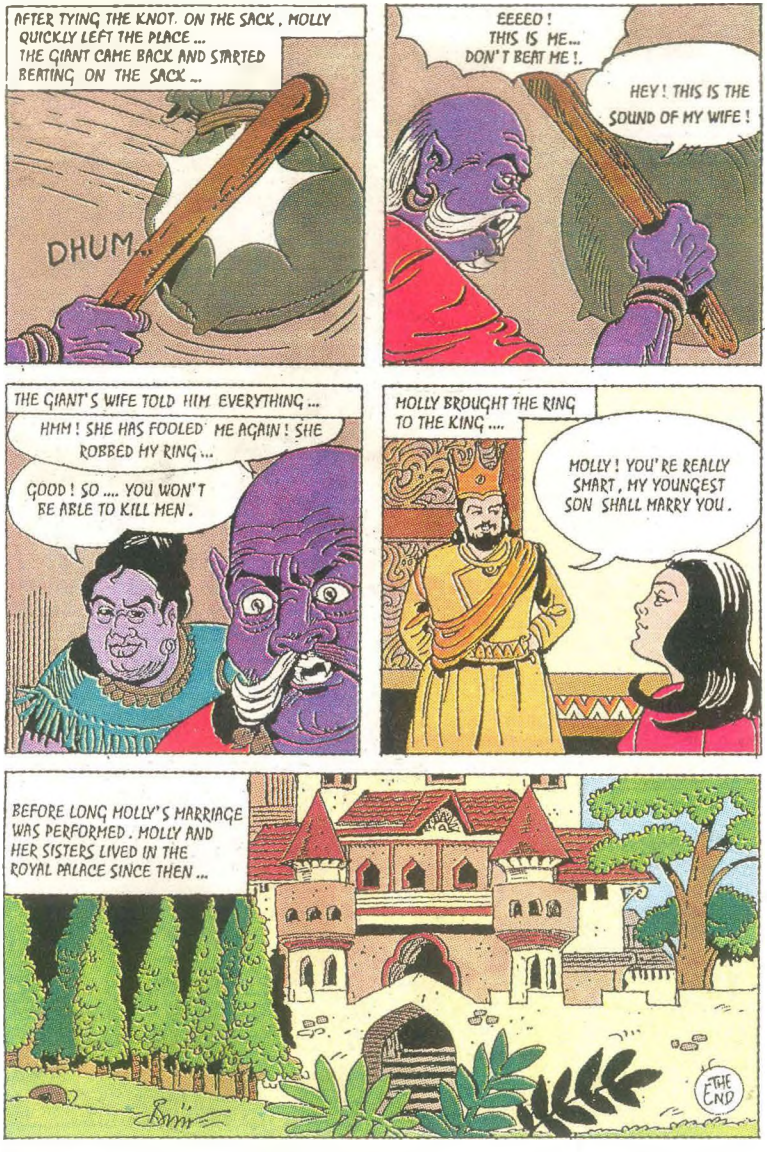
MOLLY FOOLS THE GIANT-3


I'LL CRUSH YOU UNDER MY FEET...
GOD!
DHUP!
OH! ESCAPED!
ACCURSED GIRL! THIS TIME ALSO YOU ESCAPED... HMM!
SIGH!
AS HE GOT THE GIANT'S MAGIC CASH BOX THE KING BECAME VERY HAPPY. HIS SECOND SON MARRIED MOLLY'S SECOND SISTER. AFTER A FEW DAYS...
HOLLY! ONCE MORE I NEED YOUR HELP...

THAT GIANT WEARS A MAGIC RING ON A FINGER. YOU SHOULD GET IT FOR ME.
OOUGH !. BUT ...
ONLY YOU CAN DO IT. IF THAT MAGIC RING IS TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM, THE GIANT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO KILL ANYBODY ...
HEY ! ? IS IT SO ? I'LL GO.
AGAIN MOLLY GOT INTO THE GIANT'S CASTLE.
NGROOO !.
NGROOOO !...
HE SEEMS TO BE SOUND ASLEEP ...
AH ! THIS IS THE RING !
OUCH ! IT WON'T COME OFF ...
MOLLY STARTED PULLING THE RING TO REMOVE IT ...

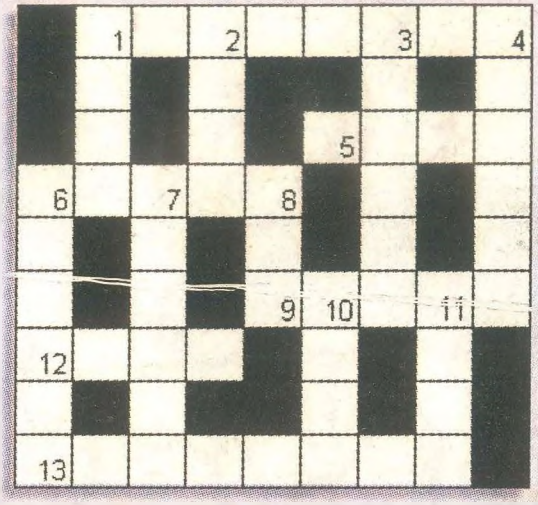

THE RING CAME OFF BUT ...
DHUM ...
HEY! YOU?!... HMM! THIS TIME YOU'LL NOT ESCAPE!
© 2001 MALAY FEATURES P.B. NO. 608 KOTTAYAM-1
EEEEOW! DON'T KILL ME!
HA-HA-HAA!. IF I LET YOU FREE YOU'LL COME AGAIN AND AGAIN TO ROB ME.
HAD I BEEN IN YOUR PLACE, WHAT WOULD YOU 'VE DONE TO ME?
THEN I WOULD HAVE TIED YOU UP IN A SACK AND BEATEN YOU TO DEATH.

HA-HA-HAA ! THAT'S A GOOD PUNISHMENT . SUITS YOU WELL .
THE GIANT PACKED MOLLY IN A SACK AND CALLED HIS WIFE .
KEEP THIS SACK ... I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING .
THE GIANT WENT TO BRING A STICK ... MOLLY STARTED TO SING SITTING INSIDE THE SACK ...
I'VE SEEN A WONDERFUL THING IN THE SACK ... ANYBODY CAN SEE THIS MAGIC THING ...
EH ! SONG FROM THE SACK ?
© 2001 MALAY FEATURES P.B. NO. 608 KOTTAYAM-1
GIANT'S WIFE OPENED THE SACK ...
I WANT TO SEE ... WHAT'S THE MAGIC THING ?
TO SEE IT , GET INTO THIS SACK !


AFTER TYING THE KNOT ON THE SACK, MOLLY QUICKLY LEFT THE PLACE ... THE GIANT CAME BACK AND STARTED BEATING ON THE SACK ...
DHUM...
EEEED! THIS IS ME... DON'T BEAT ME!.
HEY! THIS IS THE SOUND OF MY WIFE!
THE GIANT'S WIFE TOLD HIM EVERYTHING ...
HMM! SHE HAS FOOLED ME AGAIN! SHE ROBBED MY RING ...
GOOD! SO .... YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO KILL MEN.
MOLLY BROUGHT THE RING TO THE KING ....
MOLLY! YOU'RE REALLY SMART, MY YOUNGEST SON SHALL MARRY YOU.
BEFORE LONG MOLLY'S MARRIAGE WAS PERFORMED. MOLLY AND HER SISTERS LIVED IN THE ROYAL PALACE SINCE THEN ...
THE END

Crossword

- K. S. Geethavani, Coimbatore



Across:

1. Partial shadow as in an eclipse (8)
5. Male deer (4)
6. Main stem of a plant (5)
9. Give in or give way ; submit, surrender (5)
12. Sailing vessel - not a ship (4)
13. Animal found in ' NEAT HELP' (8)

Down:

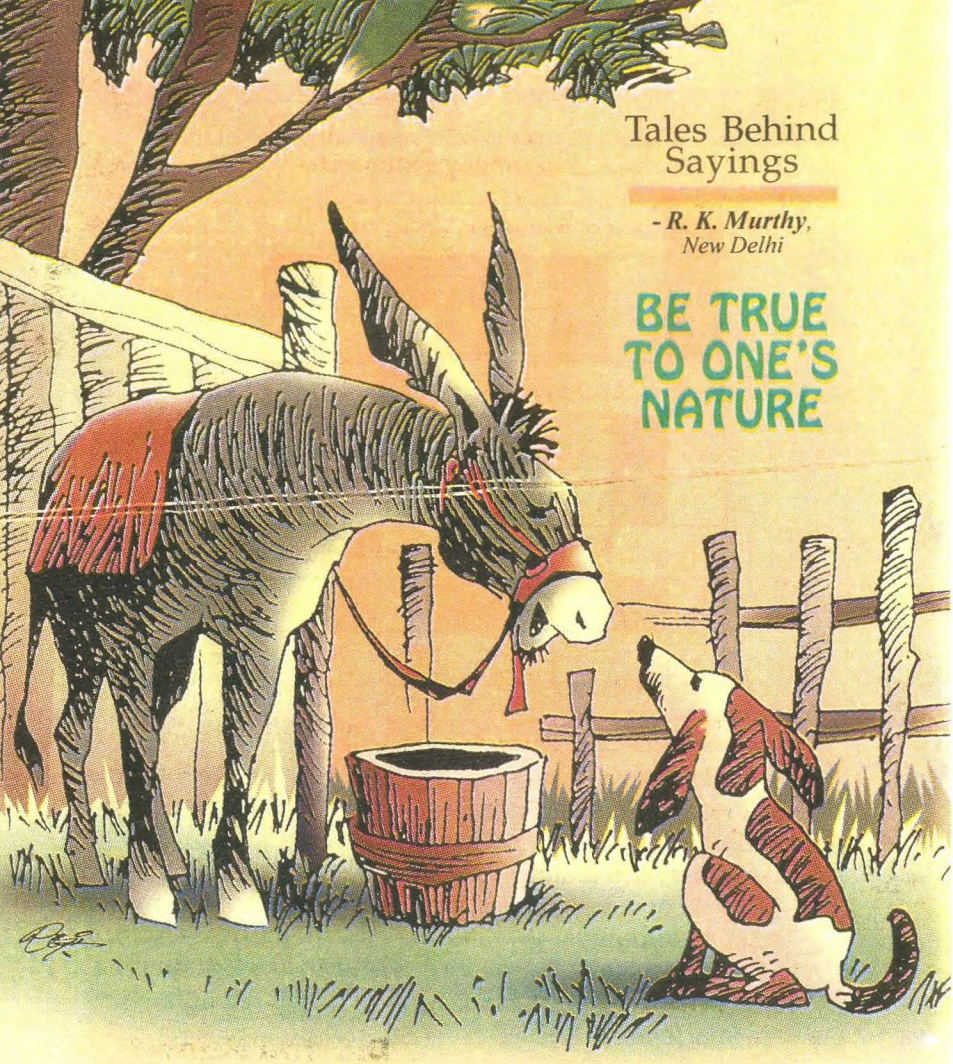
1. ....., Present, Future (4)
2. Fight tooth and ..... ; fight very hard (4)
3. War (6)
4. Quarrelled (6)
6. Sad and serious, gloomy (6)
7. Secret , mysterious found in " A CRANE" (6)
8. It opens a lock (3)
10. A very small amount (4)
11. From Ash Wednesday to Easter (4)

(See page 97)

Tales Behind Sayings

- *R. K. Murthy*,
New Delhi

BE TRUE TO ONE'S NATURE



Life is never easy for any beast of burden.

It was not easy for the donkey owned by a villager, either. He was not a cruel master. In fact he was better than most owners of donkeys were. He fed his donkey well, groomed it often, and looked after it with great care. Yet during

the day, he made it work hard. He made it work from dawn to dusk. He was stern and strict. He made it carry heavy loads. The load could be sacks of grain or heavy bundles of firewood or bricks and bags of sand. Yet the donkey could not protest. Sometimes, its back almost caved in under the weight. Often it felt that it would collapse. Yet it held on bravely. It would not slow down even to regain its breath. Its master was right behind, waving a stout stick. And the stick came down heavily on its back if it slowed down or stopped moving.

One evening, after a day of hard work, its master tied it to a stake, driven into the ground, a little distance from the door, in the open courtyard. He spread some hay before it, gently ran his palm over its body, and placed a bucket of water within its reach. Then he turned away and walked toward his house. He paused on finding his pet dog prancing around him. The dog wagged his tail and licked his hand while he patted it. The donkey watched the scene with jealousy. How much love the dog received from the master! If only the donkey could get at least a fraction of such love!

The man sat down on his haunches, holding the dog in a warm hug, before gently pushing it aside and disappearing into the house. The dog ran across, came to where the donkey was standing, lay down and started licking itself all over.

"If only master shows some kindness to me. How I wish he scratches the back of my ears or gives me a pat on the back," the donkey said loudly.

"Did you say something?"

Did You Know?

Squirrels can climb trees faster than they can run on the ground.

Did You Know?

The word alligator comes from El Lagarto which is Spanish for The Lizard.

the dog asked.

"Ah, dog! I wish I were lucky as you. Our master never makes you carry heavy loads. He scratches your ears with love. He feeds you with his own hands. He even offers you a share of his food. His eyes glint with joy when you wag your tail or lick his hand. You are his favourite," the donkey's voice choked with grief.

"Cheer up, my friend. You too can win the master's love if only you know how to go about it," said the dog, scratching an itchy part of his body with his paw.

"Tell me what I should do," the donkey turned hopefully to the dog.

"You are rather stupid, donkey. You have been watching me perform little acts that please our master immensely. Yet you have not got the message. Take the cue from me. Prance around him, lick his body and, if possible, stand on your hind legs, place your front feet on his chest and lick his chin and face," said the dog, as he turned round and round to catch his own tail.

Did You Know?

A poem written to celebrate a wedding is called an epithalamium.

"You think it would make a difference?"

"I am pretty sure of that," the dog replied, before going back to catching its tail.

For a couple of days the donkey watched every act of the dog. It practised, at night,

Did You Know?

The electric eel has thousands of electric cells running up and down its tail. Vital body organs, such as the heart, are packed into a small space behind the head. They use their electric sense to 'see'. Their electric sensors act like radar. They send out weak impulses which bounce off objects.

every action of the dog.

"I think I am now ready to try out the act," said the donkey to himself, feeling quite sure that its future would be bright once it managed to win over its master.

Early next morning the master came out of his house. He stood at the door and the cold wind ran through his hair. The dog displayed its love. It circled round him a few times, wagged its tail and licked his palm when he patted it. The master then walked across to the stake to which the donkey was tied. The moment he untied the knot, the donkey brayed loudly and ran round him. It tried to wag its tail but failed to make much of an impression. The donkey wondered why the master was not showing signs of happiness at the grand show it was putting up. It decided finally to do what it thought would be the final act of glory. It got close to the master and clambered up, stood on its back legs with great difficulty and landed its front paws on his chest. The master had not expected that. He tumbled and fell on his back. The donkey went closer to lick him. The master quickly got back on his feet. His face was livid with rage. He picked up a stick and hit the donkey rather hard a few times. The donkey could not believe itself. Where had it gone wrong? The dog had

Try It...

What percentage of all life on Earth is found under the ocean surface?

(See page 97)

Did You Know?

Contrary to the popular saying, 99 percent of the time you lead a horse to water, it'll drink on its own.

done the same acts and was rewarded by the master with a pat. But when the donkey repeated the same gestures all that it got were whacking blows. It limped back, braying in pain.

"Do that again and I will flay you alive," the master screamed at it before saddling it and piling a few bundles of firewood on its back. It worked all day long. In the evening, tired and weary it stood tied to the stake, its face long and drained of all joy.

"Why do you look so sad?" the dog asked.

"I did everything to please the master. I ran round him, wagged my tail . . ." it stopped on finding the dog chasing its tail. A mosquito was hovering around. It flew to one side, buzzed in close to the donkey's ears and laughed.

"Why are you laughing?" the donkey sounded quite annoyed.

"I was laughing at your foolishness," the mosquito said.

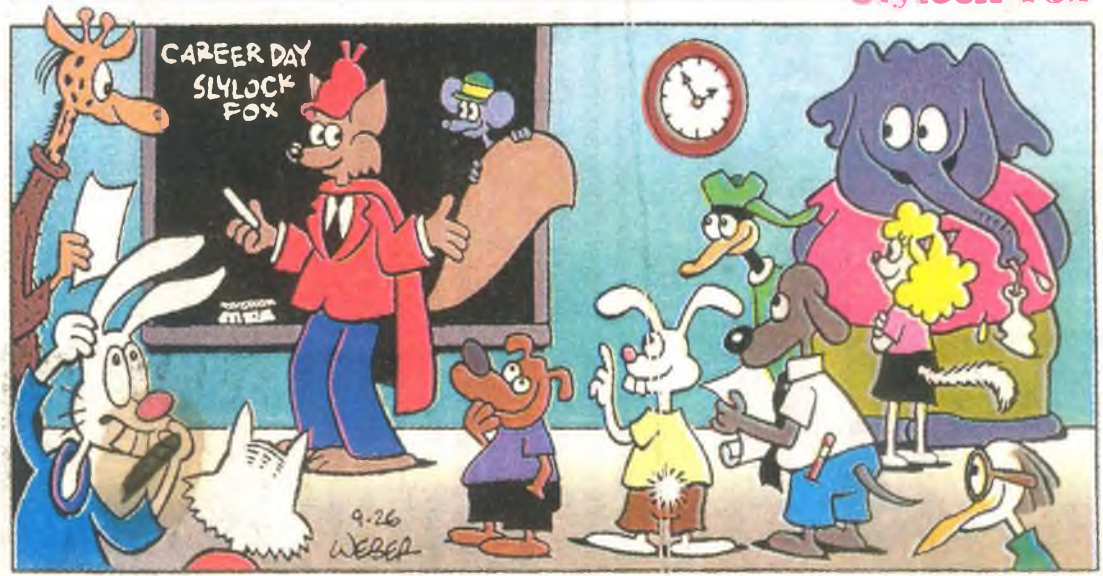
"Why do you consider me foolish?" asked the donkey.

"You are a donkey but you acted like a dog. You forgot that you are no dog. Every living thing must stay true to its nature. Otherwise it gets into trouble. Remember that," said the mosquito, flying away, as the donkey turned the message over in his head and found much wisdom in it... ■

Did You Know?

Snakes do not have eyelids, so even when they're asleep they cannot close their eyes. They do have a protective layer of clear scales, called brille, over their eyes.

Slylock Fox



Slylock Fox posed the following problem to a fifth-grade class at the Forest Middle School: A thief broke into a display case, and although he used glass cleaner to wipe his finger prints off of the case, I was able to obtain prints. How? *(See page 97)*

- Prof. George John Nidhiry

Flora and Fauna: North East India

North-East India comprising of the states of Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura is a paradise of natural beauty and a place of rich bio-diversity. The National Parks, Zoological Gardens, Museums, monasteries and monuments there attract many tourists. The snow-capped Kanchenjunga, and the gleaming lakes of Manipur Valley are enchanting sites. Elephants, leopards, rhinoceros and even the endangered snow-leopards can be seen in the National Parks in this area. To bring out the bio-diversity of North-East India the Department of Posts issued four stamps and a souvenir sheet. The stamps depict: the clouded leopard of Sikkim and Assam; the mishmi takin of Arunachal Pradesh; Dillenia indica Linn of Assam and the Pitcher plant of Meghalaya.

St. Lucia: Endangered Trees

St. Lucia is one of the Windward Islands of the East Caribbean Sea. It is a volcanic island that became a British Crown Colony in 1814 and got independence in 1979. The fastest growing sector of the economy is tourism. But indiscriminate

felling of trees for the development of tourism is a serious threat for many species. In 1990 St. Lucia issued six stamps on Endangered Trees.

The Japanese Peace Bell

In June 1954, the United Nations Association of Japan presented the Japanese Peace Bell to the United Nations. The Bell was cast from coins collected by people from sixty different countries. It is housed in a typically Japanese structure resembling a Shinto shrine and is made of Cypress wood. The stone base of the structure was donated by Israel. The bell will be rung twice a year: on the first day of spring, at the vernal equinox and on the opening day of the General Assembly's yearly session in September. In July 2003 the UN Postal Administration issued a set of three stamps and a Souvenir card to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bell. Earlier in 1970 also, the UNPA had issued two stamps to commemorate the Peace Bell. ■

Story

The Importance of Melanin

Neeta was very happy as after a long vacation her school was going to open today. She had been promoted to class VI with graceful marks. The thought of new books, new class and her friends were making her very excited. She hurriedly got ready, gulped down her breakfast and ran towards the school bus.

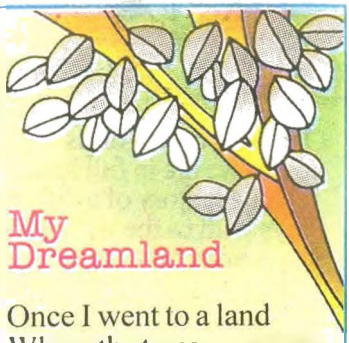
In the school everyone looked as cheerful as she was.

There was a new admission in her class. His

name was Joseph. Everyone thought that Joseph was from some European country because he was very fair, his hair was yellowish-brown and the pupils of his eyes were strange looking. Everyone in the class seemed eager to talk to the new boy. Just then the bell rang and their teacher came in. After taking the roll calls she introduced the new boy to the class. Everyone was surprised to learn that Joseph was an Indian.

Unable to control her curiosity, Neeta asked the teacher, why Joseph looked so different from them. The teacher then explained to the class:

"There is an important pigment in our body called Melanin. As all of you know, sunlight contains Ultra-Violet rays. We cannot see them but they are vital for our health. They enable our skin cells to make vitamin-D. However UV rays damage the outer layer of the skin, the body reacts by making more of melanin pigment which is brown in



My Dreamland

Once I went to a land
Where the trees
are of gold
And leaves are of silver
The river is milk shake
And the land is ice-cream.
Once I went to a land
Where there are
no home works
Or anything to study
We can roam anywhere
Nothing to worry.
I still do not know
Where I went that day
To dreamland
or wonderland?
Yes, it was my dreamland.

*- **Bhavya H.**, House No.18, Mercy Gardens, Elamakkara, Cochin - 26, Kerala.*

Mother

One who cares for us
Sees if we are in full luck.
Tell us the story of a different bug
Plays with us the war of tug
She is none other than a caring mother.

*- **Surbhee Dahiya**,*
Std VIII C, Doon Public School, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi.

colour. Due to the formation of these brown pigments our skin appears dark or tanned whenever we go out in the sun. But in some people these melanin pigments are missing; they are called albinos, and can be of any race or country. Their skin and hair are very pale in colour and because the iris of the eye is colourless, blood vessels show through them. As these people can't develop melanin they need to avoid too much of sun or else it might damage their skin."

The class now understand why Joseph looked different. They promised their teacher that they would take care of him as a new student. Joseph on his part was very happy to have so many friends in his new school.

*- **Manoshi Roy**, Bangalore*

Life

Life is a dream, achieve it.
Life is a promise, fulfil it.
Life is a fight, face it.
Life is a chance, gain it.
Life is a duty, perform it.
Life is a challenge, dare it.
Life is a game, win it.
Life is a stage, act it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is an ice-cream,
Enjoy it before it melts.

*- **Siddharth H Jain**,*
Std VI, Seth Vidyamandir, Vasai, Thane, Maharashtra.

Sorry, Forgive Me

As I pondered where to go
My mind took me to a journey
Train of thoughts ran through my mind
Absolute facts came to my side.
Why should I say "sorry" thought I
For I am not guilty nor am I caught
But then I felt that saying 'sorry'
Does not put a person down.
Should I say, "Forgive me," thought I
For I have not committed any crime
But then I felt that saying 'forgive me'
Brings you nearer to God for He is the
Sole resolver of all problems.
I realized that magical words like
Sorry, forgive me, are soothers of our soul.
They release our tension
And relieves our problems
Magical words they are
Use them and feel the difference.

*- **K. Geetha**,*
Lalitha Ram,
Thevally,
Kollam - 691009.

Spring Season

What a great season is spring
Often known as the season's king
This is a season which is loved by all
May it be big or small
It's every face and aspect is beautiful
Making everyone Cheerful
Blossoming of flower can be seen in every fence
And the atmosphere perfumed with flowers' fragrance
Spring adds to nature's luster
Like the night is embedded with star's cluster.

*- **Divyesh Gupta**,*
Std VIII C, St. Aloysius Senior Secondary School, Jabalpur, MP.

Pen Pals

1. Harnoor Singh Sidhu(12), C/o Nazar Singh, Advocate, Abulkhurana, Tappakhera, Muktsar, Punjab - 152114. H&I: Gardening, keeping pets and collecting books and stamps.
2. P. Praveen(13), 4566, Sainik School, Amaravati Nagar, T.N. 642102. H&I: Playing shuttle, swimming and reading.
3. Alok(14 & Sonu (14), Std IX B, S. No. 2718, 2691, Sainik School Nagrota, Jammu - 181221. H&I: Watching TV, playing cricket and listening to music.
4. Ankita Bhat(12), Flat No. 4, 'Adish', 18th Road, Khar (West), Mumbai - 400052. H&I: Reading, listening to music and collecting stamps.
5. Rishna Ramesh(12), D/o A. K. Ramesh, XII/319 A(1), 'Aradhana', Near Villadom High School, Villadom P. O., Ramavarmapuram, Thrissur, Kerala. H&I: Reading, singing and watching adventurous movies.
6. Siddharth Khera(12), M-2-A Gulmshar Apartments, Vikas Puri, New Delhi - 110018. H&I: Playing cricket, cycling and listening to music.
7. Mashood P.(11), S/o Illias P., Std VI B, Little Flower Central School, Karuvarakundu - 676523. H&I: Playing computer games, dancing and singing.
8. Srutiparna Lahkar, C/o Dr. N. Lahkar, Qtr # 100, G. U. Campus, Gauhati University, Jalukbari, Ghy - 781014, Assam. H&I: Reading and listening to music.
9. M. Tharif(14), S. Railway Qtrs, 107-B, Kannur - 1, Kerala. H&I: Reading, listening to music and playing cricket.
10. Swathy S. Balakrishnan(13), Std VIII B, Kendriya Vidhyalaya, Kannur, Kerala. H&I: Reading, chatting and friendship.
11. I. Vignesh(13), VIII, D-207, St. 9, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi - 110092. H&I: Playing computer games, listening to music and swimming.
12. Naveen Fernando(11), Trinity, V.P.V/183-C, Perukavu P. O., Trivandrum - 695573, Kerala. H&I: Collecting coins and stamps, r eading

Welcome to
Pen Pals
CLUB

Send us particulars regarding your name and address, age, the standard you study, your hobbies and interests, to the following address

Co-ordinator,
Pen Pals Club,
Children's Digest,
P. B. No. 7,
Kottayam-686001,
Kerala, India.

and painting.

13. Manish Poddar(14), Std VIII B, B.R.C.M Public School, Bahal, Bhiwani, Haryana - 127028. H&I: Listening to music, travelling and friendship.
14. Ankhimita P. Choudhury, C/o Alok P. Choudhury, V. D. Sarani, Assam - 788004. H&I: Watching T.V., drawing and listening to music.
15. Jisha M. P.(15), Madambil House, Choyikkaramukal, Vadayambadi P.O., Puthencruz, Ernakulam, Kerala. H&I: Playing basket ball, reading and listening to music.
16. Lincy Mary S.(14), Lijo Cottage, Cherukol P. O., Mavelikkara - 690104, Kerala. H&I: Philately, listening to music and playing shuttle.
17. Aswathy L. Vijayan(15), Pochakkandathil, Muttom P.O., Haripad - 690511. H&I: Listening to music, drawing and singing.
18. Soumya Xavier(14), Zion House, Janatha Road(South), Palarivattom, Ernakulam, Kerala. H&I: Reading, collecting coins and friendship.
19. Yatiraj K. Shetty(14), S/o Krishnaraj N. Shetty, "Shri Amba Nivasa", Kappandakaria, Moodubelle Post, Udupi - 576120, Karnataka. H&I: Reading, collecting stamps and coins and drawing.
20. Albert Lia Nlamlun(11), C/o Uptodate Tailoring, Lower Chandmary, Tura, West Garohills, Meghalaya - 794002. H&I: Reading, dancing and watching TV.
21. S. Vidhya(16), No. 170 Indra Nagar, Neyveli - 1, Tamil Nadu. H&I: Listening to music, friendship and dancing.
22. Madhuri C. B.(17), C/o S. S. Siddarnavar, Plot No 106, Opp Lingayat Bhavan, M. M. Extn., Shiv Basav Nagar, Belgaum - 590010, Karnataka. H&I: Dancing, friendship and modelling.
23. S. Sowmya(11), No 33, Second Main Rd., Krishna Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai - 600044. H&I: Reading, listening to music and gardening.
24. S. Sandhya(15), C/o N. Swaminathan, No. 33 IInd Main Road, Krishna Nagar, Chromepet, Chennai - 600044. H&I: Reading, gardening and listening to music.
25. Aswin Venu(12), C/o Venu, 'Sadhanad', Ambalappadi, Eranhikkal P.O., Kozhikode, Kerala. H&I: Painting, and reading.
26. Muneeba Amian(14), Z. M. Ganie, Dialgam, Anantnag, Kashmir. H&I: Reading, listening to music and photography.
27. Anjali Gopal(16), Thundil House, Thattarambalam P.O., Mavelikara, Kandiyoor - 690103, Kerala. H&I: Listening to music, reading and playing volley ball.
28. Arunima Arvind(12), C/o Aravindakshan, Kandathil House, Avalookkunnu P.O., Alappuzha - 688006. H&I: Playing volley ball, reading and listening to music.

YOUNG ARTISTS

Sudarshan Gopal, II A, Apeejay School, Sheikh Sarai, New Delhi-110017.

Dinu Davis, VII A, St. Joseph's English Medium School, Eravu.

Sreenesh L., 8/226-A 'Sathyavas', Cochin-682002.

Tuttu Antony, VIII, Mylatpur Estate, BBTC Ltd., Siddapur, S. Kodagu, Karnatata.

S. G. Beereshkumar, VII A, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore-560012.

Aravind Mohan, VII C, Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Trivandrum.

Shyamkumar, K., VI B, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Trichur.

D. Vignesh, VI B, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Pangode, Trivandrum.

Anjan Dutta, VI A, Lycee, Garia, Sabuj Sangha, Kolkata-700152.

Prithvi Singh, VI A, Laxman Public School, Hauz Khas Enclave, New Delhi - 110016.

Ajaykumar S., VIII A, Kendriya Vidyalaya No.1, Mangalore, Panambur.

Vandana Ramachandran, VI A, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tripunithura, Ernakulam-682301.

Suman, Farhat, VII, Mallinson and Hussaini School, Srinagar, Kashmir.

S. Muhilan, II C, Lakshmi School, Madurai.

Romesh Jain, V D, The Adity Birla Public School, Chittorgarh-312001.

Harleen Kaur, IX B, M-383 Guru Harkrishan Nagar, Paschim Vihar-87, New Delhi.

Greeshma P.S., V B, Christ Nagar Senior Secondary School, Thiruvallom.

V. Vaibhav, IV B, Baroda High School, Baroda.

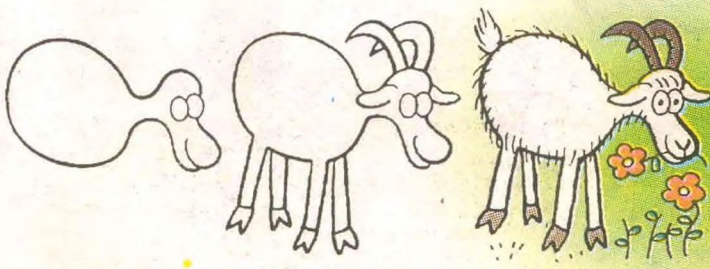
V. Vishal, I B, SPB Matric Hr. Sec. School, Erode-10.

S. Vignesh, VI A, Vedavalli Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, Walajapet-632513.

Saurav P.K., 'Prabha', Kavumbhagam, Thalassery-10, Kannur.

Divya J. Mathias, H. No. 21-94/7, Mathias Villa, Madhya P.O., Suratkal-575030.

How to Draw a goat



GOLD MARY
ONCE UPON A TIME THERE LIVED A LADY WITH TWO DAUGHTERS, MARY WAS THE NAME OF BOTH THE DAUGHTERS. ONE OF THEM WAS ADOPTED.
DAUGHTER, COME, I WILL COMB YOUR HAIR.
THOUGH THE LADY'S OWN DAUGHTER WAS LAZY, IT WAS SHE WHOM THE LADY LOVED MORE.
I WILL MARRY YOU OFF TO A PRINCE.
THE ADOPTED DAUGHTER WAS PRETTY AND HARDWORKING. BUT THE LADY HATED HER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? CLEAN THE HOUSE.
BE QUICK, AFTER THIS YOU HAVE TO COOK THE FOOD.
WHEW! I NEVER GET A MOMENT TO REST.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

ONE DAY SHE WAS SEWING SITTING BY THE WELL. SUDDENLY-
OH! I DROPPED THE THIMBLE IN THE WELL. WHAT SHALL I DO NOW ?
IF MOTHER KNOWS, I AM DONE FOR.
SHE JUMPED INTO THE WELL.
SPLASH
WITH THE FALL SHE LOST CONSCIOUSNESS. AFTER A LONG TIME.
EH! WHERE AM I ?
SHE FELT SHE HAD REACHED A WONDERLAND. A BEAUTIFUL MEADOW AND FLOWERS SURROUNDED HER.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ? I WILL FIND OUT.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS

ON THE WAY SHE SAW A PANCAKE ROASTING IN A PAN.
SUDDENLY-
PLEASE TAKE ME OUT IMMEDIATELY OR I WILL GET BURNED.
EH ?
SHE PLACED THE PANCAKE OUTSIDE AND WALKED AHEAD. SHE CAME ACROSS AN APPLE-TREE.
PLEASE SHAKE ME. MY APPLES ARE RIPE.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
MARY SHOOK THE APPLE-TREE. LOTS OF RIPE APPLES FELL DOWN/
I WILL GATHER ALL THE APPLES HERE.
FURTHER ON HER WAY-
EH ?

DON'T BE SCARED, CHILD.
I AM THE HOLY MOTHER. GOOD WILL BEFALL YOU IF YOU CLEAN MY HOUSE.
CAN IT BE TRUE ?
BUT, WHEN YOU MAKE MY BED OF FEATHERS YOU SHOULD DUST IT VERY HARD. THE FEATHERS SHOULD FLY OFF.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
THOSE ARE THE FEATHERS WHICH BRING SNOW ON EARTH.
I THINK I WILL LISTEN TO HER.
MARY BEGAN HER JOB. SHE DUSTED THE FEATHER BED VIGOROUSLY.
GOOD ! SHE HAS DUSTED OUT ALL THE FEATHERS.
SUDDENLY THERE OCCURRED A HEAVY SNOW FALL.

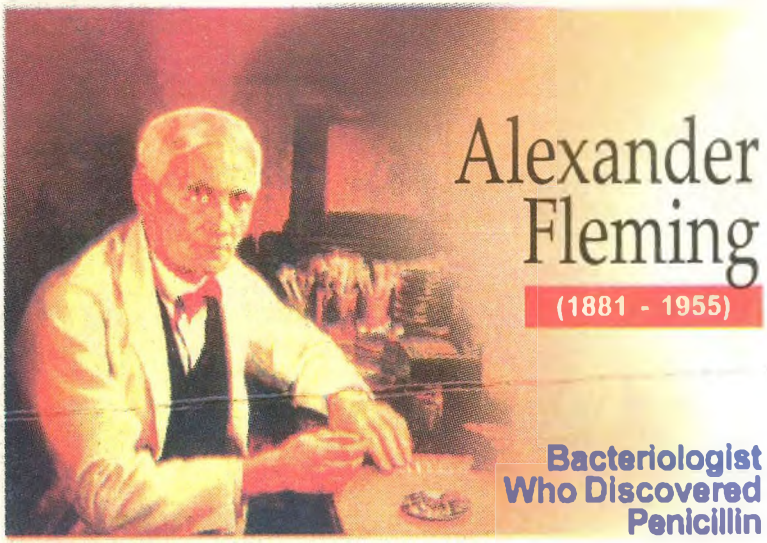
DAYS PASSED-
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHILD? YOU LOOK SAD.
I WISH TO GO HOME.
OH! THEN I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY. COME.
THE OLD WOMAN TOOK MARY TO A GATE.
YOU STAND HERE.
SUDDENLY GOLD DUST RAINED UPON MARY. FROM HEAD TO TOE SHE WAS COVERED IN GOLD.
THIS IS YOUR GIFT FOR BEING GOOD. HERE IS THE THIMBLE YOU HAD LOST IN THE WELL.
THANK YOU, GRANDMA.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
THE HOLY MOTHER CLOSED THE GATE. MARY SENSED THAT SHE HAD RETURNED TO EARTH.
WAS I DREAMING? NO, IT WAS TRUE.

COCK-A DOODLE-DOO... GOLD MARY HAS COME.
HER STEPMOTHER AND STEP SISTER CAME RUNNING. GOLD MARY TOLD THEM WHAT HAD HAPPENED. THEN-
DAUGHTER, YOU TOO SHOULD GO LIKE HER.
YES, MOTHER.
THE PAMPERED MARY DROPPED A THIMBLE INTO THE WELL AND JUMPED AFTER IT. THERE-
PLEASE TAKE ME OUT BEFORE I BURN.
WHAT? MY HANDS WILL BECOME DIRTY WITH SOOT.
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
LATER-
PLEASE SHAKE ME. MY APPLES ARE RIPE.
AND WHAT IF AN APPLE FALLS ON MY HEAD ? I CAN'T.
IN THE END SHE WENT INTO THE HUT.
AH... THIS IS THE OLD WOMAN WHOM GOLD MARY HAD MENTIONED.
TAKE ME FOR WORK HERE.
ALL RIGHT.

BUT YOU MUST DUST MY FEATHER BED HARD. ONLY THEN WILL EARTH HAVE SNOW.
ALL RIGHT.
ON THE FIRST DAY SHE WORKED CAREFULLY.
BUT ON THE NEXT DAY-
HUH! HAD DUSTED YESTERDAY. I CAN'T WORK DAILY.
Oooo
©JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
DAYS PASSED.
ENOUGH ! ENOUGH ! YOU NEED NOT STAY HERE ANYMORE. GO HOME.
WOW! NOW IT WILL RAIN GOLD.

THE OLD LADY TOOK HER TO A GATE.
AT LAST ! I WILL ALSO BE COVERED IN GOLD.
BUT-
EH!
THIS SHALL BE YOUR GIFT.
HEY! WHAT'S THIS ?
CLANG.
WENT AWAY.
© JINGLE BELL CREATIONS
MARY RETURNED WITH SOOT ALL OVER.
ALL DUE TO MY GREED.
COCK - A - DOODLE - DOO... SOOT MARY HAS COME.
AND THE SOOT NEVER CAME OFF FROM HER BODY.

- P. Gopalakrishnan



Alexander Fleming

(1881 - 1955)

Bacteriologist Who Discovered Penicillin

Alexander Fleming was born on August 6, 1881 in Lochfield, in the district of Ayrshire, Scotland, the son of a farmer by his second wife. The farmer's first wife had died leaving him four children, and he had married again when he was sixty. The second wife, Grace also gave birth to four children and Alexander was the third of them.

Fleming always considered it fortunate to have been born into a large family of eight children and in a remote farmhouse. The farm was so remote that the nearest town was four miles away. The children

Did You Know?

The side of a hammer is called a 'cheek'.

grew up in the lap of nature. So Alec, as he was called, had a robust, free, open-air life when he was young. The older boys did the usual farm chores leaving the younger ones with plenty of leisure. Alec with his elder brother John and younger brother Robert played about in the farm, roamed in the moors and woods, bathed and swam in the streams.

Alec was put to school when he was five. It was a mile from the farm to the little school near a river. In summer the classes were conducted under the trees by the river, and with winter the classes moved indoors. Recollecting in later life, Fleming, a famous scientist by then, said that it was this school that had given him the best of the education he received.

Alec's father passed away when he was seven. The responsibility for the family fell upon the shoulders of his older brothers Hugh and Tom. They looked after the farm, and helped Grace bring up the younger children.

Alec continued his studies at the little school for five years. When he was ten, Alec and his younger brother Robert were shifted to the school at the town of Darvel. Now for the boys it became a four-mile walk to school. They strode along four miles to the school and back each evening, through rain, snow, storm or sunshine. This went on for two years when Alec was moved to the secondary school in the big town of Kilmarnock.

After three years, when Alec was about fourteen, the set-up of the family had a sudden change. Tom who was helping Hugh in managing the farm, had given up farming and gone to study medicine at the Glasgow University. In 1893,

Did You Know?

The Roman emperor Commodos collected all the 'dwarfs, cripples and freaks' he could find in the city of Rome and had them brought to the Colosseum, where they were ordered to fight each other to the death with meat cleavers.

Queen Elizabeth of Hungary distributed alms to the poor and encouraged others to do the same.

"How can we give alms if we do not have money?" someone asked.

She replied, "When we do not have money, we can always have:

two eyes to look at them,
two ears to listen to them,
two lips to smile at them,
one tongue to encourage, educate and console them,
one heart to feel compassion
for them and implore God's mercy on them."

Tom qualified as a doctor and set up medical practice in London. He first arranged for John to move to London. He had found for John an apprenticeship in a firm of lens makers with which he was in close contact, being an eye-specialist. Then he took Alec also to London and put him to school there. Six months later Alec's younger brother Robert also joined them, to study at a polytechnic in London.

Alec completed his school education at sixteen and worked as a clerk in a shipping office in London. He worked hard at his job but couldn't come to like it. Tom noticed that his brother didn't enjoy his work. In the meanwhile, each of the Fleming children had been given a legacy in the will left by an uncle. Tom, Dr. Tom Fleming now, had set up a consulting room, using the funds received by him. He suggested to Alec, that he study medicine, using his portion of the legacy.

Alec found the idea attractive. So he took coaching classes for the entrance exam and in 1901 wrote it. He passed in all the subjects, and in October of the same year joined St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. He was twenty-one, quite older than his fellow first-year students.

He wasn't at first sure whether the medical profession would suit him. He had accepted his brother's proposal simply to get away from clerical work. Now he found the choice as rightly made, for he was thoroughly enjoying the study of medicine. He was even winning prizes for his work in several subjects.

It was a stroke of good fortune for Alec to have chosen St. Mary's Hospital Medical College because it was one of the institutions where considerable pioneering research was being done. Though nine years had passed since X-Rays were discovered, St. Mary's didn't have an X-Ray department yet. Scientists were beginning to understand how the body fights off diseases and it was already known that minute organisms that the eye could not see, called microbes, caused many diseases. But as yet doctors had no way to defeat the microbes.

Alec was lucky also in another respect. One of his professors was Almroth Wright, a pioneer in the study and the combating of microbes.

Microbes were first detected in the seventeenth century. Later in 1850 the work of Louis Pasteur gave an impetus to their study. In 1870 Robert Koch, a German scientist, discovered that each disease is caused by a particular microbe. Subsequently interest got focussed on disease-causing types of microbes called bacteria.

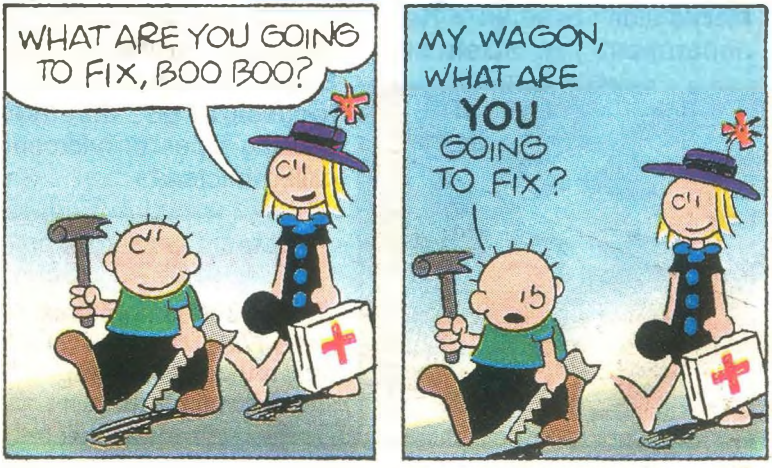
Did You Know?

At over 2000 kilometres long, *The Great Barrier Reef* is the largest living structure on Earth.

Almroth Wright was particularly interested in bacterial affections, such as wound infections, and attacks of dysentery, cholera and typhoid. Pasteur had already discovered the use of vaccines, but his idea hadn't yet caught on. Almroth Wright took to it enthusiastically and became one of the torchbearers of treatment with vaccines. Wright was not only a born researcher, he was also an inspiring teacher and speaker. He became an inspiration to many of his students including Alec Fleming.

Fleming took his medical degree in 1906 when he was nearing his twenty fifth birthday. It so happened that Prof. Wright had a vacancy as Junior Assistant in his department and Fleming was appointed. Fleming had at first regarded it only as a solution to the pressing problem of finding a job. But soon the work claimed him fully and he remained in the department till his retirement. There were about nine young medical graduates like him working under Prof. Wright. His enthusiasm infected them and they often worked well

Bonnie and Booboo



into the night.

Alec Fleming wanted to qualify as a surgeon. He worked towards this goal and passed the examination in 1909. But he was too engrossed with research and found that he didn't really want to leave Almroth Wright. Now that he was a qualified surgeon, his family observed that Alec, who was formerly so keen on surgery, didn't even talk about it. He even started to extend his research to his family. If anyone among them caught a cold or sore throat Alec would be there, ready to take a sample of mucus or blood to his lab for study.

Did You Know?

Peter the Great of Russia taxed people for growing beards.

In a few years Fleming became well-known as an expert on vaccines. He also developed a better test which, using one or two drops of blood, could detect the presence of the dreaded disease syphilis.

The First World War started in 1914 and Fleming had to leave his work in London and with Wright and two other fellow doctors had to go to France. Face to face with the reality of war, he was horrified at the sight of the wounded. The wounds usually got infected, and the doctors were helpless when faced with an already infected wound. They couldn't do much except to pour chemicals called antiseptics. The chemicals weren't of much help in treating an infected, festering wound

and the search for an effective treatment of wounds commenced.

After the war he got married. The bride was Sally, who later came to be known as Sareen. She was a nurse and they had met before the war and became quite close. Sally and her twin sister Elizabeth were running a private nursing home. Elizabeth married John Fleming, Alec's brother. Alec went back to France as soon as the wedding was over, Sally remaining in the nursing home.

Fleming returned to England in 1919. They bought a country home, a beautiful house amidst trees and with a fine garden. There a son was born to them whom they named Robert.

On returning to England Fleming resumed his research. One day in 1928, after returning from a vacation, he was cleaning up some dishes containing bacterial culture, when he observed a mould in one of them. The mould interested him as he saw that all the bacteria in a one-inch area surrounding it had been destroyed. Something in the mould had killed the bacteria. He grew samples of the mould and studied them.

The mould was penicillium notatum and Fleming found that it produced a substance that acted as a good antiseptic. He and his lab-assistants found that penicillin was effective against the germs that cause scarlet fever, pneumonia, gonorrhoea, meningitis and diphtheria. But it wasn't used for treatment till later. Fleming's mould remained on the shelf for 10 years.

In 1938, two bacteriologists, Ernest Chain, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany and Howard Florey

Did You Know?

In 1862, English chemist Alexander Parkes created the first plastic.

from Australia who were working together at Oxford University found that a strain of the mould existed right in their own laboratory. These two scientists together with fellow researchers at Oxford figured out how to mass-produce penicillin. It was used on a large scale to treat wounded soldiers in the Second World War and thus thousands of lives were saved. In December 1945, Fleming, Florey and Chain were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their invaluable contributions to medical science.

The happiness of these years was slowly giving place to anxiety and sorrow. Sareen fell ill. She used to go with her husband on all his travels. Now she became too weak to travel and began staying at home. She became too exhausted and bedridden and finally died in 1949.

And thus ended their thirty-four year companionship. Alec couldn't bear the sorrow. He stopped working altogether for some time. Returning to a normal frame of mind and to work, took a long time. In this he was partially helped by a young Greek scientist Dr. Amalia Voureka, who had joined his lab after the war. They were married in 1953.

Alexander Fleming continued working into his seventies, until the very day of his death. He died suddenly in 1955, of a heart attack. ■

Did You Know?

The hippopotamus has skin an inch-and-a-half thick; it's so solid that most bullets cannot penetrate it.

Did You Know?

To escape the Earth's gravity a rocket needs to travel at 7 miles a second.

Novel

Chapter Seven

- Ciju Puthuppally

The Sword of Immortality

They were disturbed almost immediately by a group of eagles. They ignored them for a while but the eagles kept following and attacking them and so the wizards who did not have anyone on their cloaks tried to fight them off. Adavin and King Dane were not going to stop anywhere; they needed all the time they had to get to the Volcano of Death.

They ate their lunch on the cloak.

See-er had seen what Dane was up to and had sent some goblins to slow them down. Now the goblins had arrived, flying on their bats.

A goblin jumped onto Adavin's cloak. It dropped and crashed into a tree. The goblin took out his sword and swung it at Dane, but Adavin blocked it with his own sword. He easily killed the goblin and they got back on their cloak. The others were also having trouble with the goblins, but they had no time to help each other.

"Adavin, we need to help them!" Dane shouted over the noise of the wind.

"We have no time!" Adavin shouted back.

Wiseman and the others were far behind. A goblin was chasing Adavin and Adavin was having trouble avoiding the sharp claws of the bat.

"Goblin killer!" He shouted, and as he had seen so many times in his life, the

Did You Know?

The word constipation comes from a Latin word that means 'to crowd together'.

goblin fell dead and the bat lost control. But some time had been lost in the meanwhile.

They were nowhere near the place that they should have been if they wanted to reach the Volcano of Death in three days. In the meanwhile Wiseman and the others had gotten

Did You Know?

The African lungfish can live without water for up to four years. When a drought occurs, it digs a pit and encloses itself in a capsule of slime and earth, leaving a small opening for breathing. The capsule dries and hardens, but the fish is protected. When rain comes, the capsule dissolves and the lungfish swims away.

rid of the goblins and had caught up with Adavin.

"Adavin!" Wiseman shouted. "Some witches are chasing us! Hide!"

"Oh, no," Adavin groaned.

"I'm not going to hide," Dane protested. "I'm going to..."

Adavin put his hand over Dane's mouth. Dane was indeed annoying. Adavin began to land. He could not afford a fight with the witches. They landed on a mountain and luckily there was a cave just in front of them. Adavin pushed Dane into the cave. Surely the witches could not see them from so high in the sky.

Then Adavin heard a noise. A deep growling sound. Slowly, he turned his head around. Dane screamed. It was a Hatior. Hatiors were gigantic creatures. They looked like bears. They ate every living thing they could find. Very few creatures have survived after seeing a Hatior.

Adavin was trapped. If he ran out of the cave the witches would see him and that would mean trouble. But maybe if he ran out of the cave the Hatior would follow him and when a witch came it would like to eat the witch more than him and Dane! It was their only chance so he

Did You Know?

Shrimps' hearts are in their heads.

grabbed Dane and ran out of the cave. The Hatior followed him. A witch saw them and flew down and landed exactly in front of the Hatior. Horror swept over the witch and she screamed. Hatiors were very lazy creatures so the Hatior decided to eat the witch because it would be easier.

Adavin sighed in relief and flew with tremendous speed. Wiseman and the others were still dealing with the witches. Some wizards had been killed but there were more casualties among the witches.

When the others caught up with Adavin, Dane found the triplets crying.

"What happened?" Dane asked.

"You'd better leave them alone," Wiseman said. "Unfortunately, their parents were killed by the witches."

"Oh, no," Dane said. "This is all my fault. It's all my fault. I should have helped you. I'm so sorry."

"No..." Garibo said. "It's the witches' fault. I hate them!"

"At least they died doing something good," a wizard said.

It was getting dark. They would have to stop to sleep. They landed on a grassy area with a few trees and plants growing.

"We'll have to wake up very early tomorrow," Adavin said. "So sleep well."

Clouds covered the moon and the sky; tomorrow it was going to rain.

(To be continued)

Did You Know?

Fidel Castro was once a star baseball player for the University of Havana in the 1940s.

Would you like to write for

RASHTRA DEEPIKA
CHILDREN'S
DIGEST

Your favourite magazine the Children's Digest, invites quality articles, features, stories, poems, cartoons, etc., from our young readers. Please send in your pieces, duly vetted by the Head of your institution, along with your full name, age, class and school. Your stories should be typed or neatly handwritten. We will make all efforts to publish your pieces.

Articles will be acknowledged only if accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Write to:

The Editor,
Rashtra Deepika
Children's Digest,
P. B. No. 7,
Kottayam-686001,
Kerala.

PAINTER game

1st Prize Winners

1. Ashish Kumar
   C/o Manmohan
   Opp Mitra Bhavan
   Bejai Kapikad
   Mangalore - 575004.
2. Dipanshu Bisht
   Std VI, RAN Public School,
   Bilaspur, U.P.

Consolation Prizes

1. Ravi Shankar J
   C/o S.S.S.V.P.
   Sri Sailam, Katalur P.O.
   Calicut - 673531.
2. A. J. D'souza
   D/o F. J. D'souza
   'Diamond', Red Building
   Lane
   Kankanady, Mangalore - 2.
3. R. S. Abhishek
   Flat 4/18 MIG 1 (R)4
   Phase IV 'A'
   Golf Green Urban Complex
   Kolkata - 700095.

Congratulations, dear young winners!

FUN TIME

Win Attractive Prizes!

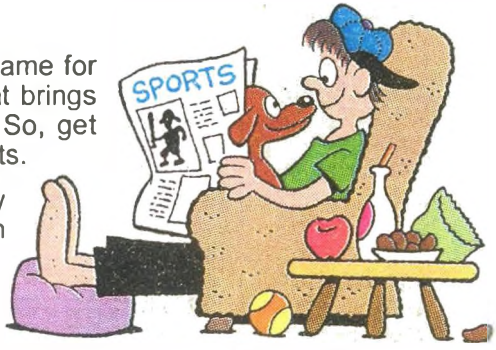
READING Game

Hello little friends,

Here is an interesting game for you - a 'Fun Game' that brings to you wonderful gifts. So, get started and win your gifts.

Find out how many smaller words you can form from the word

READING



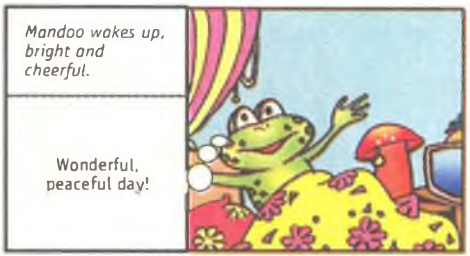
Attractive Prizes!

Two entries with the highest number of words will get a surprise gift. Besides, there are three consolation prizes, too!

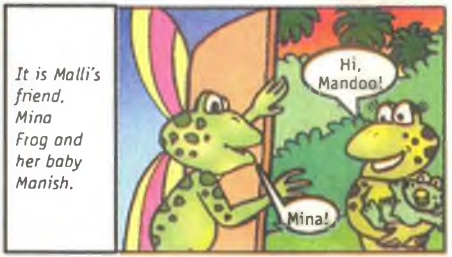
So rush your answers on a postcard to:

The Editor, Fun Time, Rashtra Deepika Children's Digest, P.B. No. 7, Kottayam, Kerala.

N.B.: Don't forget to put your address on the card. Also please don't repeat any letter more than the number of times it has appeared in the word.

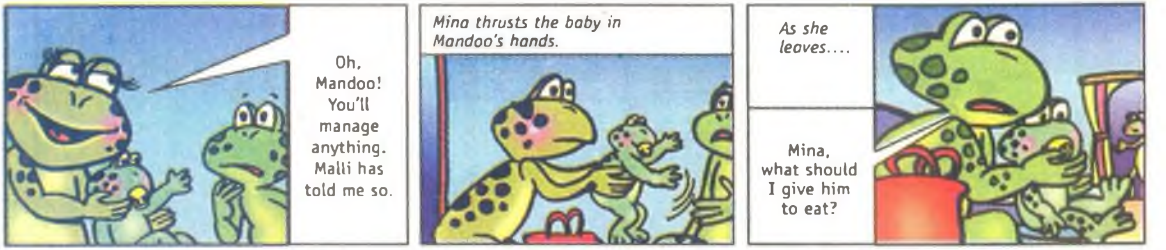


© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

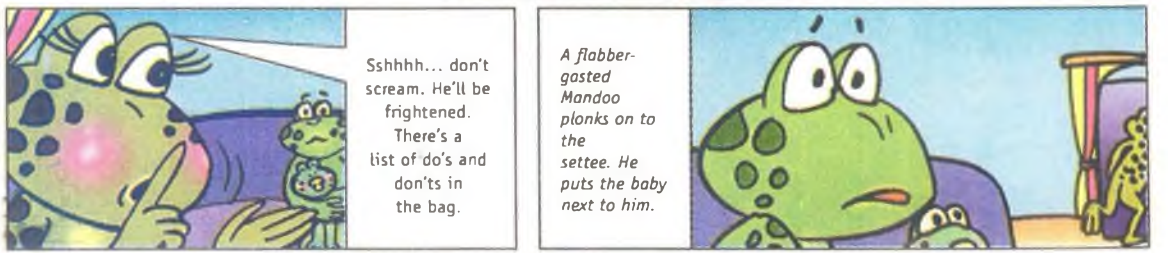


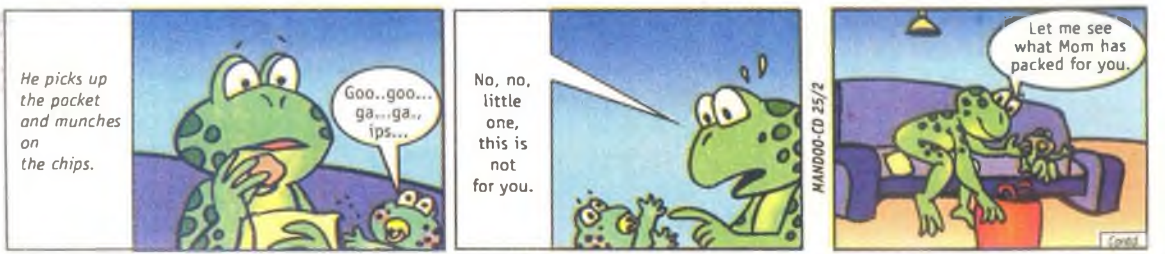
Oh, you seem to know all about kids! Malli has told me how responsible you are! Will you take care of Manish till I come back?
Oops!

MANDOO-CO 25/1


Oh, Mandoo! You'll manage anything. Malli has told me so.
Mina thrusts the baby in Mandoo's hands.
As she leaves....
Mina, what should I give him to eat?

© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved


Sshhhh... don't scream. He'll be frightened. There's a list of do's and don'ts in the bag.
A flabbergasted Mandoo plonks on to the settee. He puts the baby next to him.


He picks up the packet and munches on the chips.
Goo..goo... ga...ga.. ips...
No, no, little one, this is not for you.
MANDOO-CD 25/2
Let me see what Mom has packed for you.

- ***Vernon Thomas***, *Kolkata*

With the birthday just three days away, Bubli found she had saved very little for a gift for her mother. It was the custom for her to give her mother a special gift on her birthday, as a 'thank you' for being such a good mother. From as far back as she could remember - which was not so long really, as she was only ten years old - Bubli had always given her mother a separate gift.

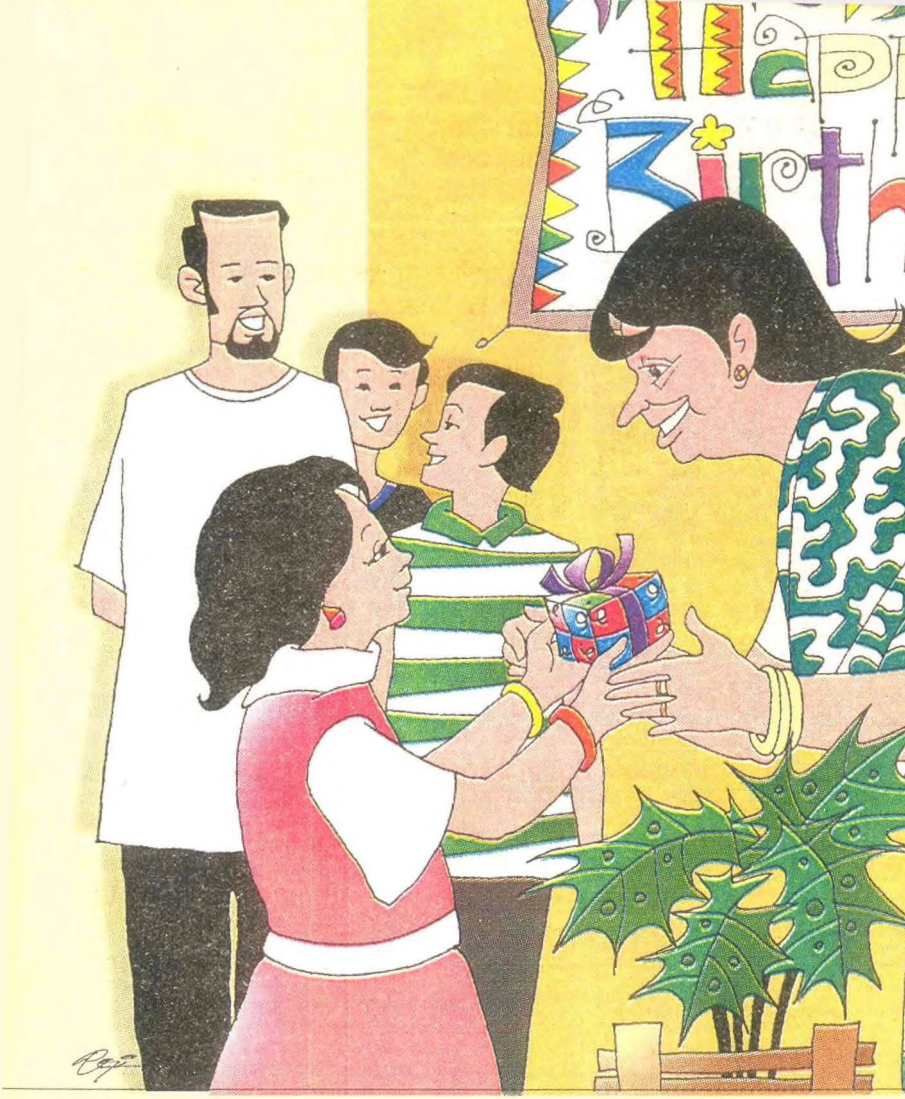
Microsurgery and Laser Surgery

In microsurgery, a microscope is used to help the surgeon work on very small body parts such as nerves or blood vessels.

In laser surgery, the surgeon cuts with a laser beam instead of a scalpel. The laser seals blood vessels as it cuts, and it is used for delicate operations such as eye surgery.

As she counted her savings that morning Bubli found there was just twenty rupees in her small money box. Oh dear! she thought. What could she buy with such an amount? Bubli felt sorry she had not been more careful. Why did she spend on those chocolates the day before yesterday? If she had not bought them she would have had about forty rupees, she realised. But those chocolates had looked so tempting in the confectioner's window, that she could hardly resist them.

How she wished she was grown up and able to work! Then she could buy her mother so many things, like her father and her two big



brothers did.

In fact, Baba and her brothers were planning to give Ma a costly sari for her birthday. Bubli knew. Of course, Bubli also knew that she could ask Baba for some money to buy a gift.

Still, she felt that would not be quite the same thing. Her teacher always said that the best gifts were those made through making sacrifices.

By dinner time that night Bubli was truly very worried.

"Are you feeling all right?" asked her father in concern, noticing she was upset.

"Quite all right, Baba" she answered. "It's just that I have very little money to buy Ma a gift for her birthday."

"But don't worry about that!" laughed her father. "We can always include your name along with our present."

"Thank you! That would be very nice, Baba! Still, if I had my own gift it would be much better," said Bubli with a huge sigh.

"What am I to do?" she asked her best friend, Smita, the next day when they met in the park at play time.

"I guess you will just have to manage with what you have," answered Smita very wisely, with a toss of her head.

Smita was the cleverest girl in her class. She was always full of bright ideas. Bubli always valued what she had to say.

"Your mother likes to cook doesn't she?" asked Smita.

"She loves cooking," answered Bubli, "just as much as I do. That is why I'm always helping her in the kitchen."

"Yes! Then I suggest you buy your mother something for the kitchen," said Smita importantly. "I heard my mother say, there are quite a number of cheap little kitchen gadgets being sold in that new

Did You Know?

The word curfew originates from an old French word that means 'cover fire'.

Did You Know?

Onions get their distinctive smell by soaking up sulphur from the soil.

shop across the street."

"Really! Do you think I could get something suitable?" cried Bubli, already beginning to feel better. Trust Smita to solve the problem. Smita was truly so very clever.

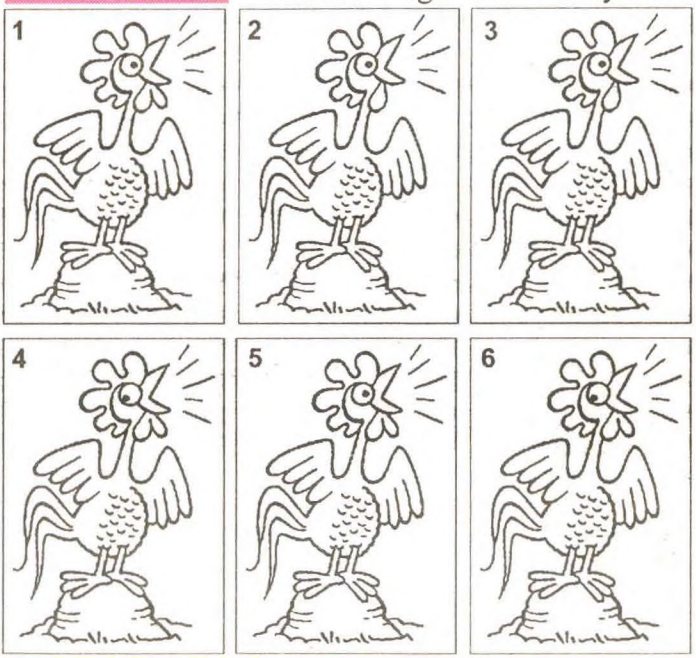
The next day Smita accompanied Bubli to the shop. The shop was very grand and very new. Everything in it was sparkling bright. In fact, the salesmen were dressed so smartly too, that Bubli felt very shy to enter.

"Smita, everything looks so expensive," she said to her friend. "Do you think we should go in?"

"But, of course," said Smita. "Why ever not?" So

Try It...

Which two figures are exactly alike?



(See page 97)

saying, she boldly marched into the shop, almost dragging Bubli along with her.

And it was Smita who spoke to one of the smart salesmen. She explained to him that she wanted a small gift which would cost not more than twenty rupees. The salesman understood. Within minutes he had laid a number of little kitchen gadgets on the counter for them to see.

"What about a potato peeler?" suggested Smita, as she saw her friend hesitating over making her choice.

"A very good idea!" cried Bubli at once. "Why, that is really most clever of you, Smita! How did you guess that my mother finds it a problem to peel potatoes? Ma always says she peels more flesh than skin."

With that the matter was settled. The potato peeler was paid for, leaving Bubli with still two rupees. The two friends now left the shop. Bubli thanked Smita warmly for solving her problem.

"See you in the park tomorrow, Smita!" she said, and started for home. On reaching home, she packed her present in some

Try It... Find six differences between these two panels.

(See page 97)

Word of the Month

Ring

I heard a bell ring.
Loud bells *peal.*
A small bell *tinkles.*
An annoying noisy bell
jangles.
A clock *chimes.*
We ring Grandma
every Sunday.
Other words are
to call, to phone, to
telephone.

coloured paper and tied it with a piece of ribbon, all ready to be handed over to her mother on her birthday.

However, when the birthday dawned, Bubli felt rather doubtful. More so when she saw the expensive Benarasi sari, the gift of her father and brothers. Truly, her gift would be so small alongside the sari, thought Bubli sadly.

But what else was there to do? For there was Ma now turning towards her, and putting her hand out to accept her small present. Though she suddenly felt like crying, very bravely Bubli handed over her gift.

"A Happy Birthday Mummy," she said.

"But thank you, Baby!" answered her mother, and at once she began to open the package.

Bubli watched as her mother undid the ribbon. She noticed that her mother did not say anything as she saw the gift. In fact, her 'thank you' was a long time in coming. After what seemed an age she said: "Thank you, Baby!" And Bubli noticed that her mother's eyes were suddenly full of tears.

Of course, it was the cheap present, Bubli at once decided.

"Oh, ma I'm so sorry!" she said, as she began to sob. "It's all my fault. If I had not

Did You Know?

Amphibious is based upon Greek words that mean living a double life; amphibians live on land as well as in water.

eaten those chocolates I would have been able to afford a better present."

"But what makes you think this present is not good enough?" asked her mother.

"Well, I can see you are disappointed," said Bubli. "You have tears in your eyes."

But her mother shook her head. "You've got it all wrong, my Baby! My tears are not due to the price of this gift. My tears are due to the thoughtfulness behind this gift."

"Thoughtfulness!" repeated Bubli quite puzzled. "But that potato peeler cost less than twenty rupees."

"No doubt! But the value of thoughtfulness cannot be expressed in terms of money," pointed out her mother. "The fact that you chose something which I need so badly, adds, I'd say, another hundred rupees to the value of your gift."

"Really!" Bubli was about to exclaim, when her mother continued: "And the fact that you help me to peel potatoes makes it worth another hundred. And so much more! You're a good girl. You do well in class. Such things make your gift worth thousands of rupees."

"I don't believe you! You must be joking!" Bubli almost said, but she could see her mother was quite serious. In fact, her father and brothers were nodding in agreement. So it must be correct Bubli decided.

And with that she was pleased. She was happy to know that the value of gifts did not depend on money alone. As her mother now gathered her into her arms to kiss her soundly, Bubli thought it was a wonderful day after all.

"A Happy Birthday Mummy," she repeated as she sat down to have her breakfast. And she felt truly quite happy. ■

RASHTRA DEEPIKA

CHILDREN'S DIGEST

Annual Subscription Form

Yes, I would like to subscribe to *Children's Digest*.
1 year (12 issues) at Rs. 150/-. (Saving Rs. 30/-)*
(Rates and offer valid in India only)**

(WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS)

Code No. DG (if renewal):.....

My name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

.....

E-mail:.....Pin:.....

Please find enclosed DD No.....dated.....
for Rs. 150/- favouring *Rashtra Deepika Children's Digest*, payable at Kottayam.

Please fill in this order form and mail it to The Marketing Manager, Rashtra Deepika Children's Digest, P.B. No. 7, Kottayam-686001, Kerala, India.

On the cover price of Rs. 15/-* *(Abroad) One Year US $ 25*

Alumni puzzle

The '87 batch of IIT Kanpur had a grand reunion. Manish was delighted to attend the function, and even more so when he bumped into four old friends. The five now lived in different cities. They decided to catch up with all the news over dinner at a local restaurant. Each friend ordered a different dish and no two had the same drink.

From the clues given below, find each man's surname, and determine where he is from and what he chose to eat and drink.

1. Karan, whose last name wasn't Seth, did not order Gobi Manchurian.

2. The man who ordered pineapple juice lived in Kolkata.

3. Mr. Rawal, who didn't live in Chennai, drank only mineral water.

4. The man from Delhi had Chicken 65 for dinner. Mr. Dua, whose first name wasn't Manish, did not order Alu Mattar.

5. Bharat Kapoor didn't live in Mumbai. Rahul, whose surname was not Rawal, did not drink mango juice.

6. Manish, whose surname was not Rawal, had Paneer Makhani.

7. The man who ordered Navaratna Kurma had iced tea. Mr. Menon, whose first name is not Manish, lived in Bangalore.

8. The five friends were the one who lived in Chennai, Mr. Menon, Shyam, the one who lived in Mumbai, and the one who drank cold coffee.

Solution

Name	Surname	City	Dish ordered	Drink
Bharat	Kapoor	Delhi	Chicken 65	Cold coffee
Manish	Seth	Chennai	Paneer Makhani	Mango juice
Karan	Rawal	Mumbai	Alu Mattar	Mineral water
Rahul	Menon	Bangalore	Navratna Kurma	Iced tea
Shyam	Dua	Kolkata	Gobhi Manchurian	Pineapple juice

Jason and the Golden Fleece - 10

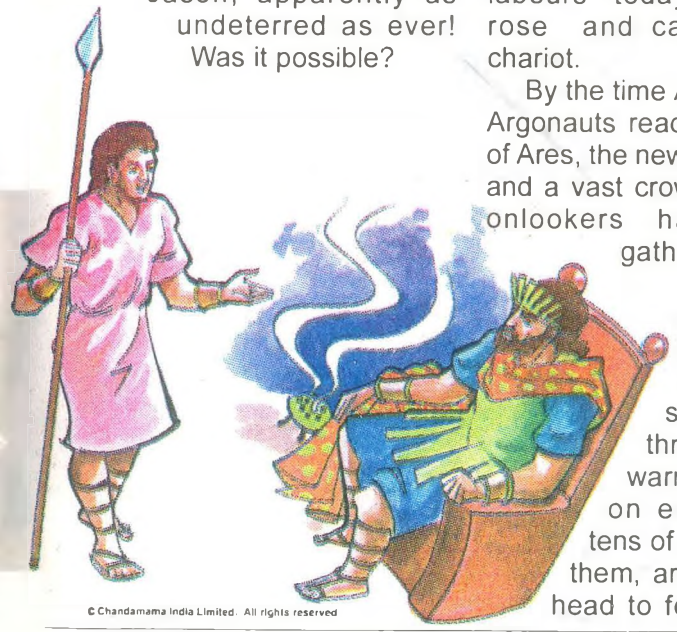
When a herald came in to announce that Jason awaited King Aetes's audience, the king's face was the very picture of incredulity. He had fully expected that the Argonauts, given time to deliberate, would realise the foolhardiness of their mission and escape in the only manner possible – by fleeing in the night. But here was Jason, apparently as undeterred as ever! Was it possible?

"Send him in!" he ordered.

Jason entered, bowed to the king, and declared, "O son of Helios, I'm all set to begin the labours!"

"Very well," said Aetes, his face once again an inscrutable mask. He ordered, "Let heralds be sent to every part of the city to announce that Prince Jason will be performing the heroic labours today!" Then he rose and called for his chariot.

By the time Aetes and the Argonauts reached the field of Ares, the news had spread and a vast crowd of curious onlookers had already gathered.



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

Aetes made an imposing figure as he sat on his throne, with his warriors standing on either side – tens of thousands of them, armoured from head to foot in chain

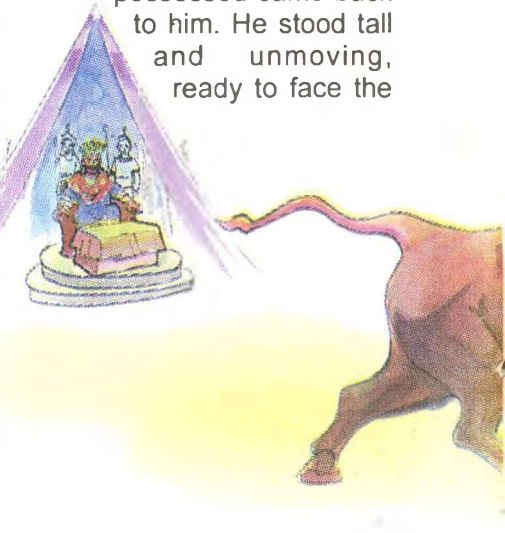
mail. Beside them, amid the spectators, stood the Argonauts – a measly handful in that thronging multitude.

Jason strode out confidently to the portion of the field allocated to him and called, "Let the fire-breathing bulls come forth!"

The watching crowd gasped at the young man's unfaltering nerve. Little did they know that his courage was well founded, for, he had taken care not only to anoint himself and his weapons with Medea's magic ointment, but also to make his comrades test its efficacy. The previous night, they had tried to bend his lance, but it had stood like an iron bar; one, in despair, had hewed at it with his sword, with the result that the sword had shattered into splinters! Their attempts to pierce his shield with their spears had only resulted in the spears being blunted. Polydeuces, the famous boxer, had then struck Jason a blow that would have felled an ox, but Jason did not even sway from its impact. The heroes had rejoiced over their leader's renewed strength, and spent the remaining hours in revelry, until it was time to meet Aetes.

The gates were thrown open. Jason glimpsed two enormous bulls rushing towards him. Their bronze hoofs clanged on the rocky ground, and their flared nostrils sent out great sheets of fire, as they charged ahead at full speed with lowered heads.

For one dreadful instant Jason quaked; but the next moment, he recovered his nerve as the memory of the superhuman strength he now possessed came back to him. He stood tall and unmoving, ready to face the



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

danger.

As the bulls approached him, the flame of their breath swept around him, but thanks to the magic ointment, it did not singe even a hair on his head.

Jason sprang upon the nearest bull and seized him by the horns. The mighty beast tossed its head about in a wild bid to break free, but in vain. Jason held on like grim death. Up and down they wrestled, until the bull finally fell to his knees and let him fasten the halter upon him.

Jason then turned to the second bull and wrestled him, too, into submission. He yoked the tamed bulls, harnessed them to the plough and goaded them forward until the sacred field was ploughed.

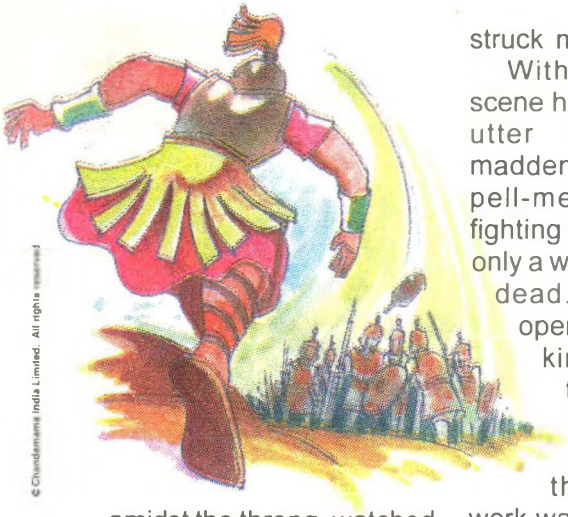
When he had finished, his comrades cheered, for, already Jason's work was half done, and the sun was still high up in the sky. Aetes could only gnash his teeth in fury.

As Jason walked triumphantly up to him, he silently handed him a bronze helmet containing the dragon's teeth, for his next labour. Jason walked back to the freshly dug up earth, and swiftly began sowing the dragon's teeth in the moist furrows. This done, he covered up the furrows and stood back to wait.

The results were instantaneous. Every furrow heaved and bubbled, and out of every clod rose a fully grown, armed man. Out of the earth they sprang by thousands, each clad from head to foot in steel, and shouting war-cries, drew their swords and rushed on Jason, who stood in their midst alone.

The watching crowd gasped; the Argonauts trembled, while Medea, standing

© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved



© Chandamama India Limited. All rights reserved

amidst the throng, watched Jason with bated breath. Would he remember the instructions she had given him on how to deal with these invincible earth-born warriors? Her anxious eyes crept from Jason's face to the bronze helmet by his side.

As it turned out, Jason had not forgotten. Even as the crowd watched in nail-biting suspense, in one lightning move he snatched up the helmet and threw it into the midst of the crowd of warriors.

There was a dramatic turn of events. As the helmet struck one of them, he turned and charged at the one nearest to him, shouting, "You struck me!"

Within moments, the scene had changed to one of utter chaos with the maddened warriors rushing pell-mell at each other, fighting tumultuously. It was only a while before they all lay dead. Then the furrows opened up again, and the kind earth enveloped them into her arms. The grass grew green again over them, and Jason's work was done!

The watching Argonauts raised a great cheer, while Medea heaved a sigh of relief.

Aetes' face was purple with rage. However, by the time the victorious hero and his entourage reached his side, he had schooled his features back into their habitual inscrutable expression.

"Congratulations, Prince Jason!" he said with a bland smile. "Clearly, the immortals are on your side. You shall have the Fleece tomorrow."

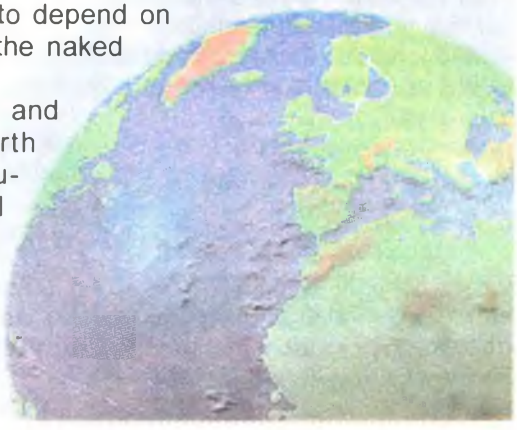
But his eyes held an evil glint that did not quite match the smile. *(To continue)*

-S. R. C. Nayar

Shape and Size of the Earth

- How the Wise Men of the Past Determined Them

Most of us have seen pictures of the Earth taken from outer space by the video cameras in space vehicles. In these pictures, we can see the globe-like Earth rotating about its own axis and revolving around the Sun. So, we have no difficulty in believing that the Earth is spherical in shape. (In fact, it is an imperfect sphere with the Northern Hemisphere elongated towards the pole, the Southern Hemisphere dented in, and the equator bulging out with slight irregularity.) But, that was not the case centuries ago, when people had to depend on observations with the naked eye.



Today, the size and shape of the Earth have been accurately determined by sophisticated measurement techniques and computer aided calculations. It is a wonder that great

philosophers of the past had arrived at more or less the same result without the aid of sophisticated instruments or techniques.

Pythagoras

The possibility of the Earth's surface having curvature was first indicated by the observations of the seafarers. When sailors return home after a long voyage, they look out to catch the first glimpse of their homeland. It appeared a bit strange to them that it was always the peak of the mountains, which first came to their view. Slowly, as they neared the shore, more and more of the mountains and finally the buildings appeared as if they had hoved up out of the water. If the Earth was flat, they should see the whole mountains and buildings at once. So, they concluded that the Earth's surface was not flat as it appeared, but curved.

It was the Greek Mathematician Pythagoras who first argued that the Earth

Tomato Facts

- The tomato is in the same family as the potato, pepper, eggplant, and petunia.
- There are thousands of different tomato varieties.
- The French used to refer to the tomato as the "apple of love."
- Scientists at Cornell University have identified two cancer-fighting substances in the tomato: P-courmaric and chlorogenic acids.
- Tomatoes are a good source of vitamins A and C.
- A versatile vegetable for cooking, tomatoes can be prepared stuffed, baked, boiled, stewed, pickled, and fried, and are the base for many sauces.

has to be a sphere. His reason was that sphere was the most perfect geometrical shape. The Earth, being the center of the universe (as it was believed at that time), could not be of any other shape. But, he could offer no proof.

Aristotle

It was another famous Greek philosopher Aristotle who gave the first proof of the spherical shape of the Earth. In his time, the lunar eclipse was an unresolved mystery. But, Aristotle was sure that the dark spot on the moon at the time of eclipse was the shadow of the Earth when it got between the moon and the Sun. He wondered why the shadow was always circular.

Aristotle experimented with many objects. He held a flat round cake against the sun. The shadow was circular only when the cake was in one position, i.e., when the circular side faced the Sun. When the edge faced the sun, it would be like a thin rod. So, the Earth could not be flat.

Then he tried with half of an orange. The shadow was circular only when the flat side or the opposite side faced the Sun. In other positions it was of different shape. From many such experiments, Aristotle found that the shadow would be always circular only if the object was a sphere. So, he concluded that the Earth was spherical in shape. But, this presented another problem. He wondered how people and objects in the lower parts of the Earth could remain attached to the Earth. So, he believed that only part of the upper portion, i.e., the Northern hemisphere was inhabited. This was because no one at that time knew about the gravitational force, which held everything to

Eratosthenes

The Story Behind

Bubble Gum

Bubble Gum as we know it today was first made by an American called Henry Fleer during the early years of the last century. But the original idea behind this all-time children's favourite wasn't really his! An indigenous people in South America called the Aztec Indians had been chewing chicle, the dried sap or gum of a jungle tree, for centuries. Chicle was introduced into the United States by travellers and immigrants and people had been chewing it for some time before Fleer thought of commercialising it. The problem with chicle was that it had no taste. Its sole attraction seemed to be the large bubble it produced, though some people also thought it acted as an aid to thinking.

It needed a man with imagination to make

the Earth. Isaac Newton, who propounded the theory of gravity was born many centuries later.

The circumference of the Earth was first calculated by Eratosthenes a geographer and astronomer, who lived in the city of Alexandria in Egypt in the third century B.C. He wrote a famous book geographia, which means the description of the Earth. The merchants who arrived in Alexandria from a place called Syene told him that, at noon, on the day of the summer solstice - the longest day in the year - the Sun's rays illuminated water in the deepest

Did You Know?

60-65 million years ago dolphins and humans shared a common ancestor - the Mesonycid.

chicle appealing to children and adults alike. And Fleer was the right person. He experimented with and added various sweetening agents, syrups and flavours to chicle to make it attractive and tasty. He called his product Blibble-Bubble Gum! But he soon found that it had a serious defect. It burst before becoming a large, eye-catching bubble! Moreover, the 'gumminess' was too much; it was messy, stuck to the lips and face and was difficult to clean up.

Fleer's Bubble Gum was initially a flop as a business venture. But he didn't give up. He continued with his experimenting and created a stronger bubble that could well withstand the built-up air pressure inside. He also succeeded in making it less sticky and easily removable from the lips. Delighted with his new product, he named it Double Bubble. It was an instant success!

- Jee

wells in Syene. Eratosthenes realized that the Sun's rays fell vertically in Syene on that day. The angle of inclination of the Sun's rays in Alexandria at the same time was a fiftieth of a complete circle. So Eratosthenes inferred that the distance between Alexandria and Syene was a fiftieth of the Earth's circumference. He calculated the Earth's circumference as about 42,000 kilometers, a remarkably accurate figure compared to the present calculated value of 40,067 km for Equatorial Circumference and 40,000 km for the Polar Circumference. ■

Did You Know?

A cat will almost never meow at another cat. Cats use this sound for humans.

Words and Numbers

Many people use numbers in regular conversation. It is very natural to describe a state of high delight as being on the *seventh heaven*.

It is very common to say 'We're *eighty-six* on flounder'. The common explanation is that fashionable New York restaurants had only 85 tables, so the 86th was the one you gave to somebody you did not want to serve. It appears that *eighty-six* was first used in restaurants and bars, either in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The original sense was that the establishment had run out of some item on the menu.

The phrase *on all fours* is very common in the legal profession. The image behind it is that of a four-legged animal. If it has use of all four legs, it runs smoothly and evenly, as opposed to the way it would limp if one of its legs became immobile. In the 18th century, people started using *to run on all four* as a figurative expression to describe some proposition that was fair or well-founded. *To be on all four* or *to stand on all four* means to be on a level with another, to present an exact analogy or comparison with something else. As language experts automatically work on word hunt, it becomes *second nature* with them to seek the etymological meaning of words.

Persons who became words Anders Dahl

Anders Dahl (1751 - 1789) was a renowned Swedish botanist. The dahlia flower is named after him. Born in Sweden as the son of a preacher, he was interested in natural science and, in his teens, formed a Topographic Society whose members wrote reports about plant and animal life and geography. In 1770, Dahl was enrolled at the University of Uppsala, where he studied under Carolus Linnaeus. After receiving the bachelor's degree, he worked in Gothenburg as curator of a private natural museum and botanical garden. In 1786, he was conferred with an honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine in Kiel and in 1787 he became associate professor and botanical demonstrator at the University of Turku (today's Helsinki University). He died at the age of 38. Later his friend from Uppsala, Carl Peter Thunberg, named a plant from the plant family Hamamelidaceae after him as Dahlia crinita.

Answers

QUIZ OF THE MONTH

1. Universal Father: A Life of Pope John Paul II.
2. "Ha Tiqva" (The Hope).
3. The Great Indian bustard.
4. Armenia.
5. Paul Hermann Muller
6. Palindrome
7. Paper clip
8. Rome
9. Maharaja Hari Singh
10. Finland
11. Ammon
12. Goat
13. Golden Eagle.

CROSSWORD

Across:
1. PENUMBRA 5. STAG 6. STALK 9. YIELD 12. BOAT 13. ELEPHANT

Down:
1. PAST 2. NAIL 3. BATTLE 4. ARGUED 6. SOMBRE 7. ARCANE 8. KEY 10. IOTA 11. LENT

TRY IT...

Page 39
c)
Page 79
Numbers 1 and 5.
Page 80
Arm, jack-o'-lantern, tail, boy's mouth, windowsill and bag strap.

SLYLOCK FOX

Solution:
When the thief fled, he left behind the bottle of glass cleaner. Slylock obtained fingerprints from the bottle.

Vacuum Flask

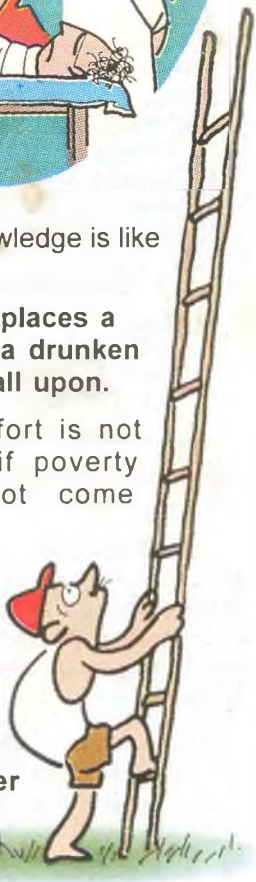
A vacuum flask is a container that keeps hot liquids hot and cold liquids cold. It is a bottle made of two layers of thin glass, separated by a vacuum. The glass is given a mirror finish. This and the vacuum prevent heat from passing between the inside and outside of the flask.

The vacuum flask was invented in 1892 by a Scottish scientist, James Dewar. Vacuum flasks, with the trade name Thermos, first went on sale in 1925.

Proverbs

- **If the patient dies, the doctor has killed him, but if he gets well, the saints have saved him.**
- A prudent man does not make the goat his gardener.
- Many eyes go through the meadow, but few see the flowers.

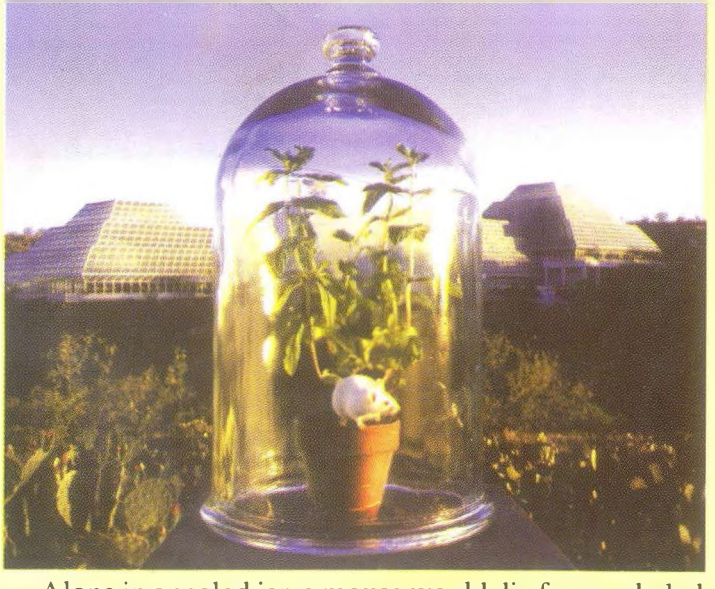
- Zeal without knowledge is like fire without light.
- **The devil places a pillow for a drunken man to fall upon.**
- Comfort is not known if poverty does not come before it.



- Trouble rides a fast horse.
- Though the bird may fly over your head, let it not make its nest in your hair.
- **He who would climb the ladder must begin at the bottom.**

Lens View

Start the car, turn on a light, adjust the thermostat, or do just about anything, and we add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. Each year humans dump eight billion tons of carbon into the Earth's atmosphere. Less than half of it remains there. Then how does nature keep its balance? It is through nature itself - nature is breathing deep and helps in saving us from ourselves. Oceans and forests are absorbing roughly half of the eight billion tons of carbon that humanity is pouring into the atmosphere each year.



Alone in a sealed jar, a mouse would die from exhaled CO_2. But as scientist Joseph Priestley observed in 1771, adding a mint plant allows the mouse to thrive.

Courtesy: Span

The Black Brunswicker

(John Everett Millais)

John Everett Millais was born on 8 June 1829 in Southampton, England. A prodigy from childhood, Millais became England's most popular painter. This poignant scene shows a soldier leaving his beloved before going to fight at the Battle of Waterloo. Most of the Black Brunswickers were killed in the battle. The romantic subject and superb drapery painting made the picture an enormous success.